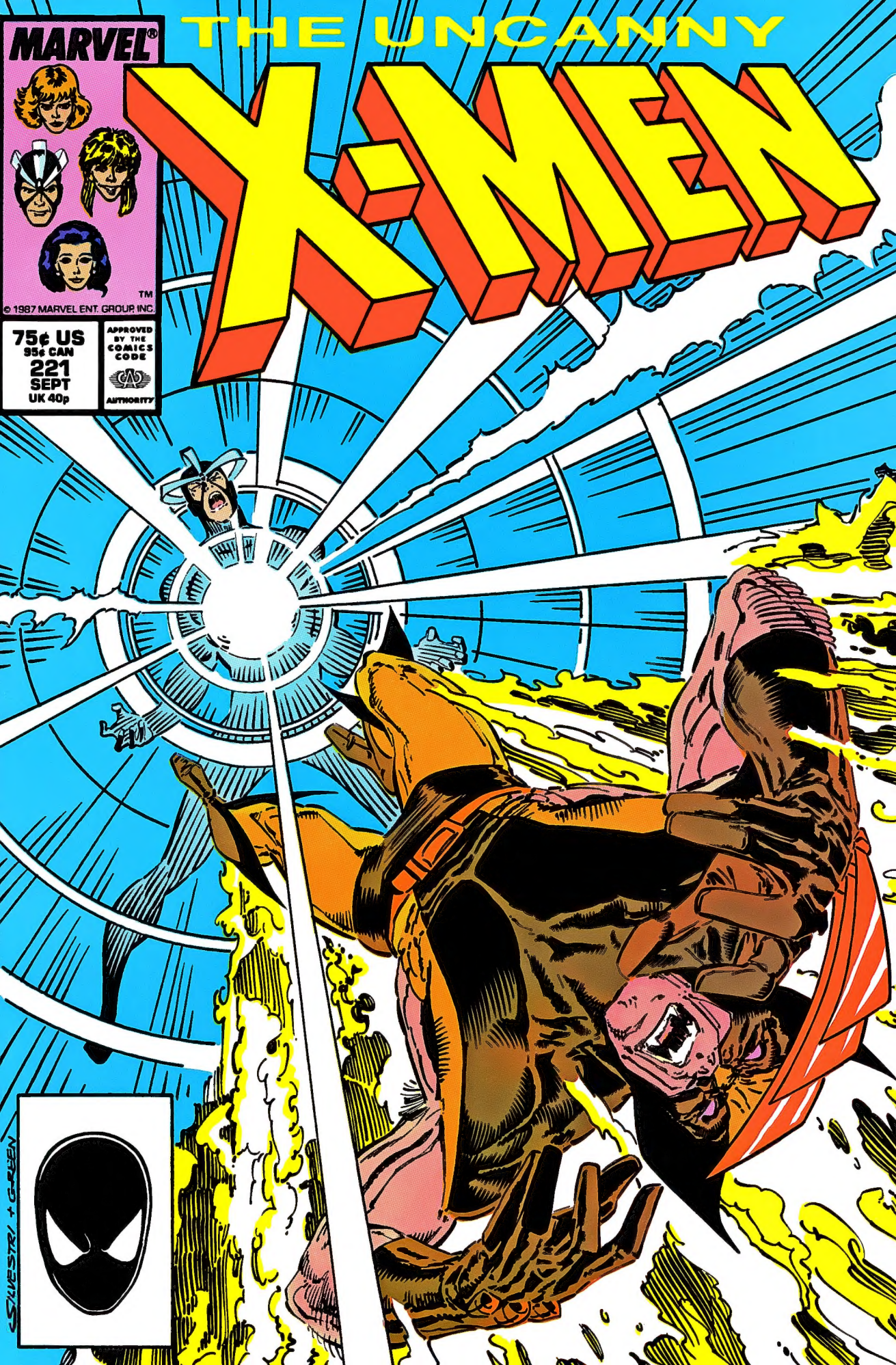
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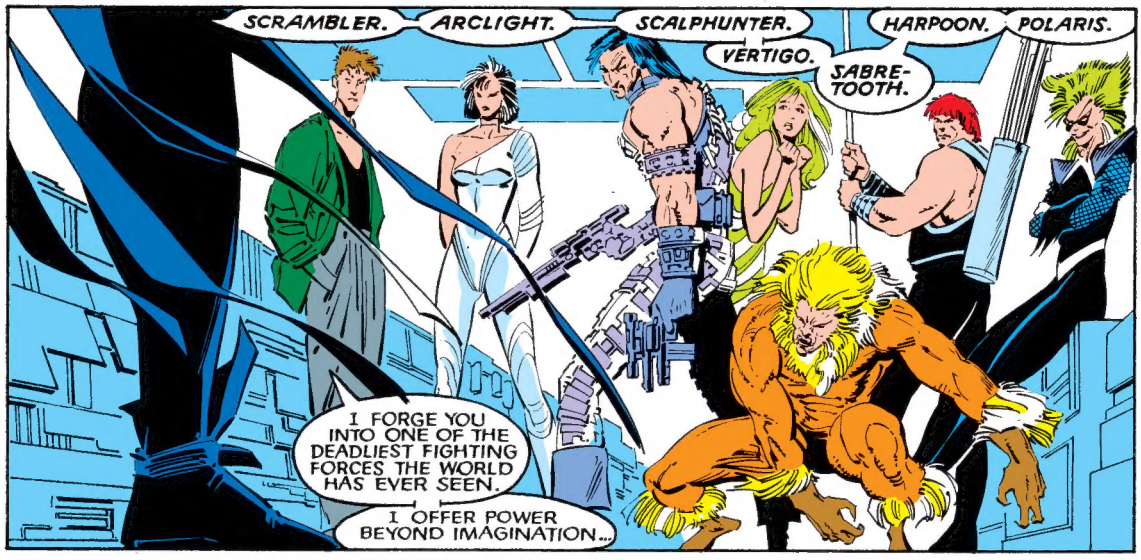
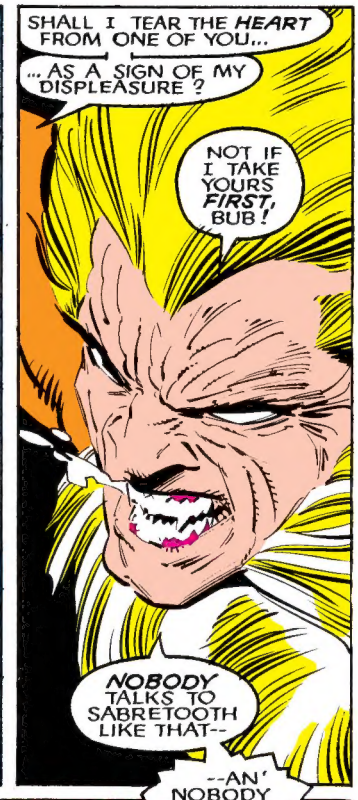
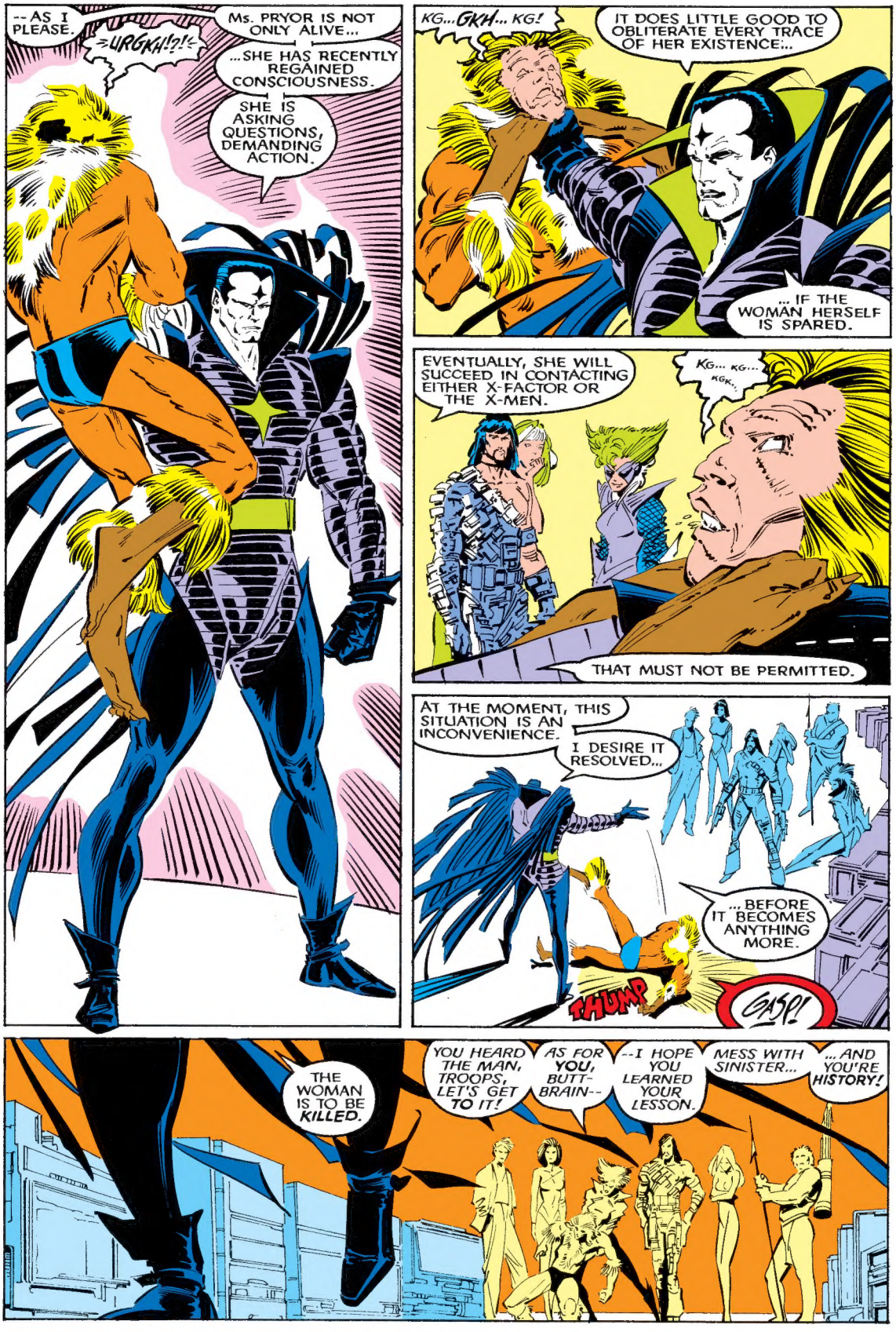
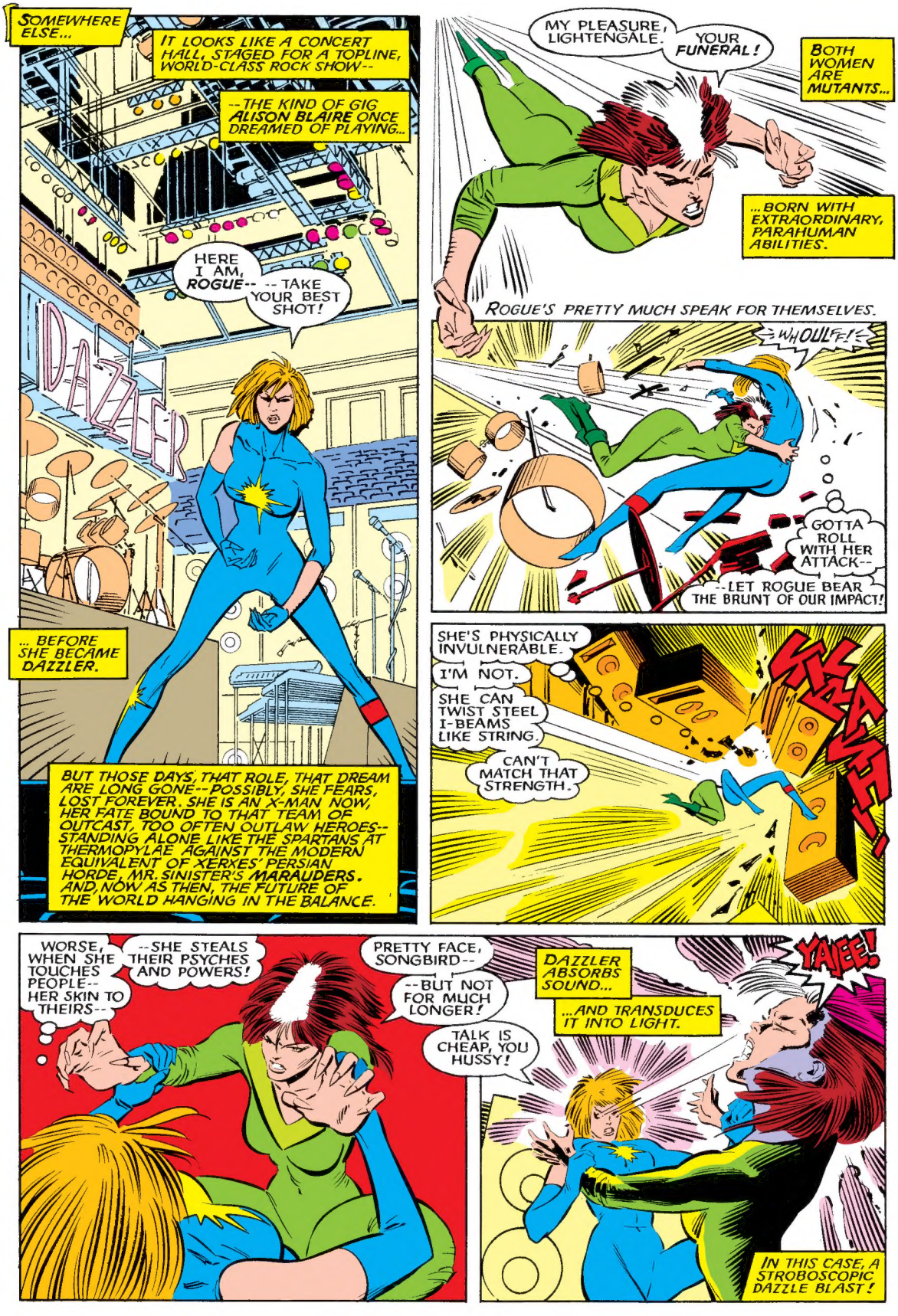

SCRAMBLER.
ARCLIGHT.
SCALPHUNTER.
VERTIGO.
HARPOON.
POLARIS.
SABRE-TOOTH.
I FORGE YOU INTO ONE OF THE DEADLIEST FIGHTING FORCES THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.
I OFFER POWER BEYOND IMAGINATION...

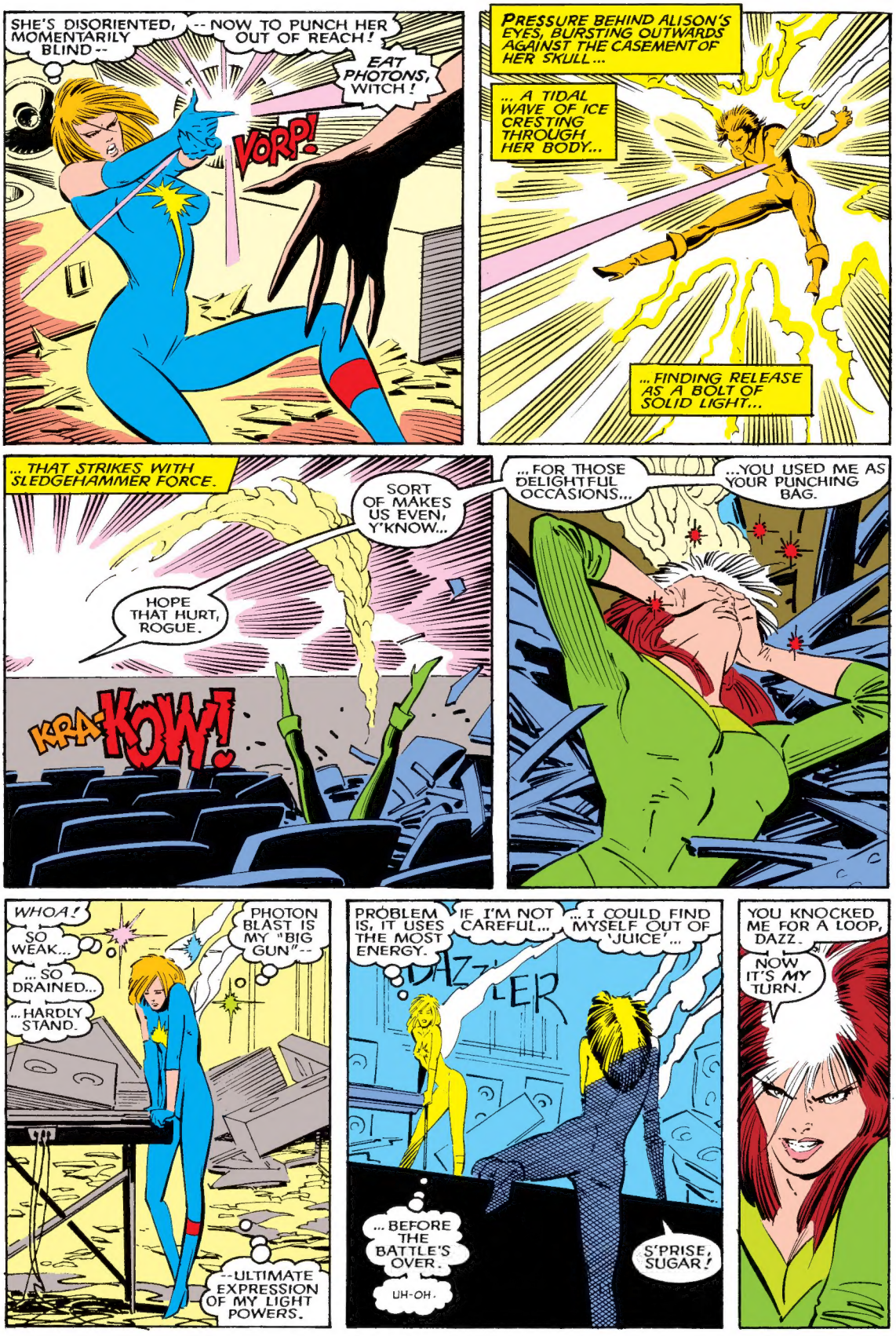
...WEALTH BEYOND THE WILDEST DREAMS OF AVARICE--
-- IF ONLY YOU SERVE ME, AND DO SO WELL.
YET-- WHEN I SET THE SIMPLEST OF TASKS--
-- THE EXECUTION OF THIS WOMAN, MADELYNE PRYOR...
...YOU BOTCH IT.
HOW THEN CAN I EXPECT YOU TO FARE AGAINST SUCH HEROES AS THE AVENGERS OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR--OR OUR MOST DANGEROUS FOES, WHO TIME AND AGAIN YOU HAVE FAILED TO ELIMINATE, THE X-MEN?

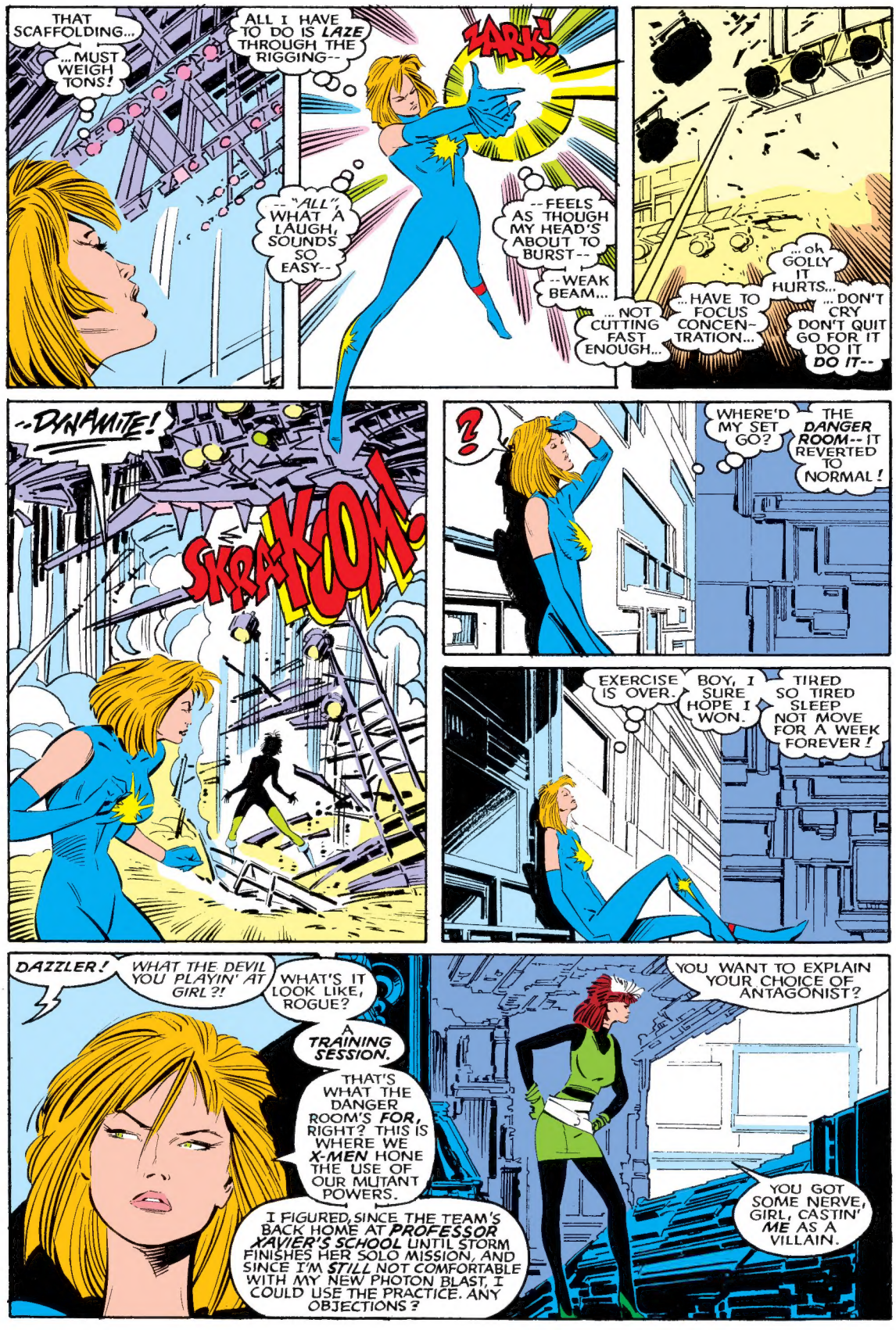

SHALL I TEAR THE HEART FROM ONE OF YOU...
...AS A SIGN OF MY DISPLEASURE?
NOT IF I TAKE YOURS FIRST, BUB!
NOBODY TALKS TO SABRETOOTH LIKE THAT--
--AN' NOBODY THREATENS HIM!

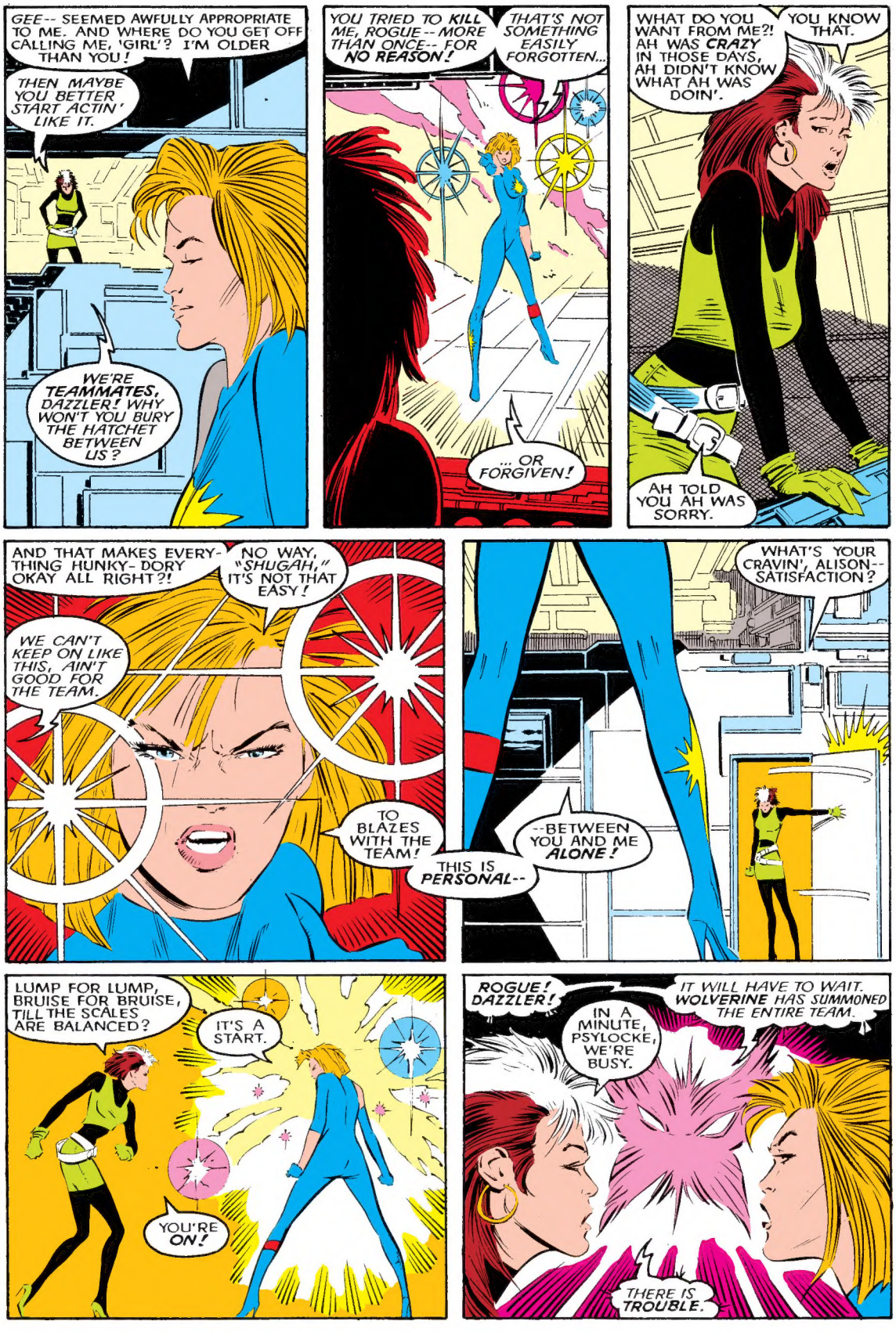
I WILL TALK, LITTLE MAN-- AND DO--

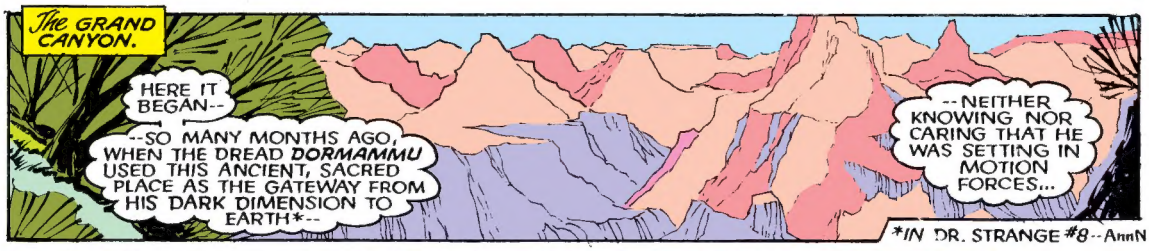

--AS I PLEASE.
=URGKH!?!=
Ms. PRYOR IS NOT ONLY ALIVE...
...SHE HAS RECENTLY REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.
SHE IS ASKING QUESTIONS, DEMANDING ACTION.
KG...GKH... KG!
IT DOES LITTLE GOOD TO OBLITERATE EVERY TRACE OF HER EXISTENCE...
... IF THE WOMAN HERSELF IS SPARED.
EVENTUALLY, SHE WILL SUCCEED IN CONTACTING EITHER X-FACTOR OR THE X-MEN.
KG... KG... KGK...
THAT MUST NOT BE PERMITTED.
AT THE MOMENT, THIS SITUATION IS AN INCONVENIENCE.
I DESIRE IT RESOLVED...
...BEFORE IT BECOMES ANYTHING MORE.
THUMP
GASP!
THE WOMAN IS TO BE KILLED.
YOU HEARD THE MAN, TROOPS, LET'S GET TO IT!
AS FOR YOU, BUTT-BRAIN--
--I HOPE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON.
MESS WITH SINISTER...
...AND YOU'RE HISTORY!

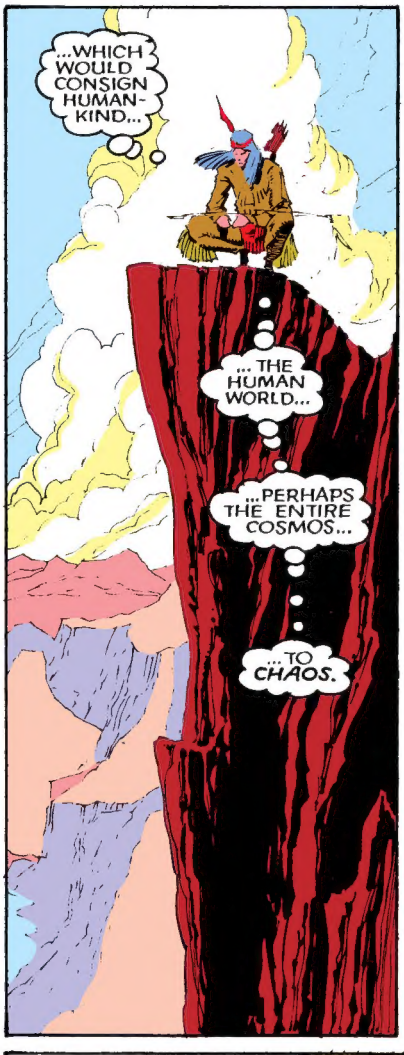

SOMEWHERE ELSE...
IT LOOKS LIKE A CONCERT HALL, STAGED FOR A TOPLINE, WORLD-CLASS ROCK SHOW--
--THE KIND OF GIG ALISON BLAIRE ONCE DREAMED OF PLAYING...
HERE I AM, ROGUE--
--TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!
DAZZLER
... BEFORE SHE BECAME DAZZLER.
BUT THOSE DAYS, THAT ROLE, THAT DREAM ARE LONG GONE--POSSIBLY, SHE FEARS, LOST FOREVER. SHE IS AN X-MAN NOW, HER FATE BOUND TO THAT TEAM OF OUTCAST, TOO OFTEN OUTLAW HEROES--STANDING ALONE LIKE THE SPARTANS AT THERMOPYLAE AGAINST THE MODERN EQUIVALENT OF XERXES' PERSIAN HORDE, MR. SINISTER'S MARAUDERS. AND, NOW AS THEN, THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD HANGING IN THE BALANCE.
MY PLEASURE, LIGHTENGALE.
YOUR FUNERAL!
BOTH WOMEN ARE MUTANTS...
...BORN WITH EXTRAORDINARY, PARAHUMAN ABILITIES.
ROGUE'S PRETTY MUCH SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.
WHOULF!
GOTTA ROLL WITH HER ATTACK--
--LET ROGUE BEAR THE BRUNT OF OUR IMPACT!
SHE'S PHYSICALLY INVULNERABLE.
I'M NOT.
SHE CAN TWIST STEEL I-BEAMS LIKE STRING.
CAN'T MATCH THAT STRENGTH.
KRAKAH!
WORSE, WHEN SHE TOUCHES PEOPLE--HER SKIN TO THEIRS--
--SHE STEALS THEIR PSYCHES AND POWERS!
PRETTY FACE, SONGBIRD--
--BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER!
TALK IS CHEAP, YOU HUSSY!
DAZZLER ABSORBS SOUND...
...AND TRANSDUCES IT INTO LIGHT.
YAJEE!
IN THIS CASE, A STROBOSCOPIC DAZZLE BLAST!


SHE'S DISORIENTED, MOMENTARILY BLIND--
--NOW TO PUNCH HER OUT OF REACH!
EAT PHOTONS, WITCH!
VORP!
PRESSURE BEHIND ALISON'S EYES, BURSTING OUTWARDS AGAINST THE CASEMENT OF HER SKULL...
... A TIDAL WAVE OF ICE CRESTING THROUGH HER BODY...
... FINDING RELEASE AS A BOLT OF SOLID LIGHT...
... THAT STRIKES WITH SLEDGEHAMMER FORCE.
SORT OF MAKES US EVEN, Y'KNOW...
HOPE THAT HURT, ROGUE.
KRA-KOW!
... FOR THOSE DELIGHTFUL OCCASIONS...
...YOU USED ME AS YOUR PUNCHING BAG.
WHOA!
SO WEAK...
... SO DRAINED...
... HARDLY STAND.
PHOTON BLAST IS MY "BIG GUN"--
--ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF MY LIGHT POWERS.
PROBLEM IS, IT USES THE MOST ENERGY.
IF I'M NOT CAREFUL...
... I COULD FIND MYSELF OUT OF 'JUICE'...
DAZZLER
... BEFORE THE BATTLE'S OVER.
UH-OH.
S'PRISE, SUGAR!
YOU KNOCKED ME FOR A LOOP, DAZZ.
NOW IT'S MY TURN.

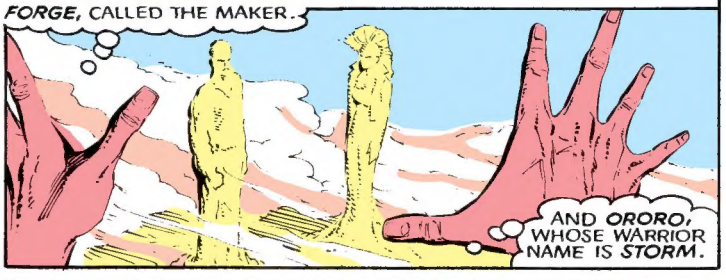

THAT SCAFFOLDING...
...MUST WEIGH TONS!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LAZE THROUGH THE RIGGING--
ZARK!
--"ALL", WHAT A LAUGH, SOUNDS SO EASY--
--FEELS AS THOUGH MY HEAD'S ABOUT TO BURST--
--WEAK BEAM...
...NOT CUTTING FAST ENOUGH...
...HAVE TO FOCUS CONCEN-TRATION...
...oh GOLLY IT HURTS...
...DON'T CRY DON'T QUIT GO FOR IT DO IT DO IT--
--DYNAMITE!
SKRAKOOM!
?
WHERE'D MY SET GO?
THE DANGER ROOM-- IT REVERTED TO NORMAL!
EXERCISE IS OVER.
BOY, I SURE HOPE I WON.
TIRED SO TIRED SLEEP NOT MOVE FOR A WEEK FOREVER!
DAZZLER!
WHAT THE DEVIL YOU PLAYIN' AT GIRL?!
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE, ROGUE?
A TRAINING SESSION.
THAT'S WHAT THE DANGER ROOM'S FOR, RIGHT? THIS IS WHERE WE X-MEN HONE THE USE OF OUR MUTANT POWERS.
I FIGURED, SINCE THE TEAM'S BACK HOME AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL UNTIL STORM FINISHES HER SOLO MISSION, AND SINCE I'M STILL NOT COMFORTABLE WITH MY NEW PHOTON BLAST, I COULD USE THE PRACTICE. ANY OBJECTIONS?
YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICE OF ANTAGONIST?
YOU GOT SOME NERVE, GIRL, CASTIN' ME AS A VILLAIN.

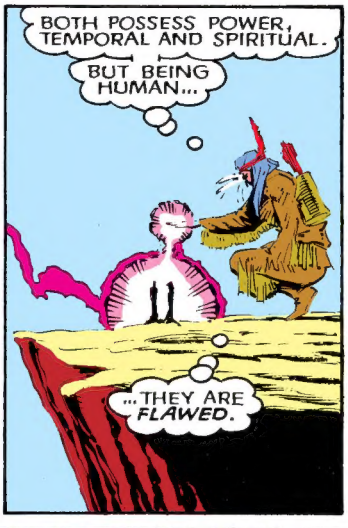

GEE-- SEEMED AWFULLY APPROPRIATE TO ME. AND WHERE DO YOU GET OFF CALLING ME, 'GIRL'? I'M OLDER THAN YOU!
THEN MAYBE YOU BETTER START ACTIN' LIKE IT.
WE'RE TEAMMATES, DAZZLER! WHY WON'T YOU BURY THE HATCHET BETWEEN US?
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME, ROGUE-- MORE THAN ONCE-- FOR NO REASON!
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING EASILY FORGOTTEN...
... OR FORGIVEN!
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?! AH WAS CRAZY IN THOSE DAYS, AH DIDN'T KNOW WHAT AH WAS DOIN'.
YOU KNOW THAT.
AH TOLD YOU AH WAS SORRY.
AND THAT MAKES EVERYTHING HUNKY-DORY OKAY ALL RIGHT?!
NO WAY, "SHUGAH," IT'S NOT THAT EASY!
WE CAN'T KEEP ON LIKE THIS, AIN'T GOOD FOR THE TEAM.
TO BLAZES WITH THE TEAM!
THIS IS PERSONAL--
--BETWEEN YOU AND ME ALONE!
WHAT'S YOUR CRAVIN', ALISON-- SATISFACTION?
LUMP FOR LUMP, BRUISE FOR BRUISE, TILL THE SCALES ARE BALANCED?
IT'S A START.
YOU'RE ON!
ROGUE! DAZZLER!
IN A MINUTE, PSYLOCKE, WE'RE BUSY.
IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT. WOLVERINE HAS SUMMONED THE ENTIRE TEAM.
THERE IS TROUBLE.


The GRAND CANYON.
HERE IT BEGAN--
--SO MANY MONTHS AGO, WHEN THE DREAD DORMAMMU USED THIS ANCIENT, SACRED PLACE AS THE GATEWAY FROM HIS DARK DIMENSION TO EARTH*--
--NEITHER KNOWING NOR CARING THAT HE WAS SETTING IN MOTION FORCES...
*IN DR. STRANGE #8--AnnN

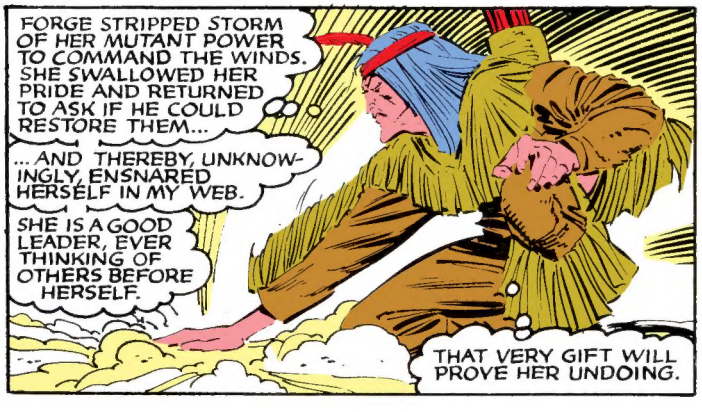

...WHICH WOULD CONSIGN HUMANKIND...
... THE HUMAN WORLD...
...PERHAPS THE ENTIRE COSMOS...
... TO CHAOS.

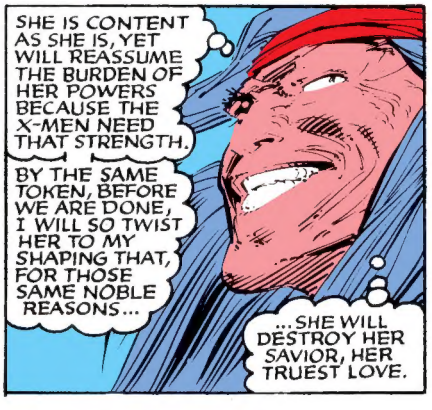
AGAINST SUCH A FATE...
...STAND BUT TWO CHAMPIONS.

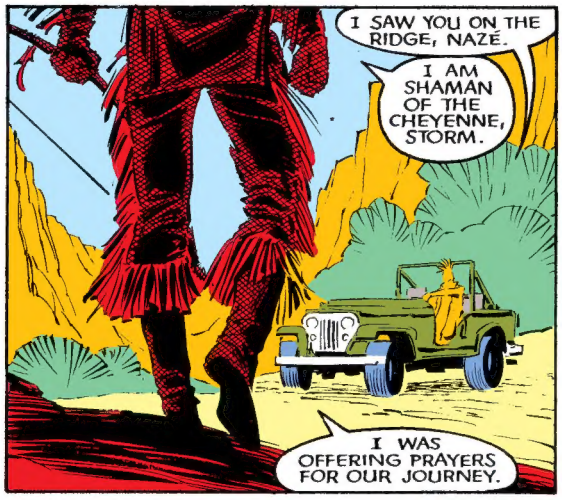

FORGE, CALLED THE MAKER.
AND ORORO, WHOSE WARRIOR NAME IS STORM.

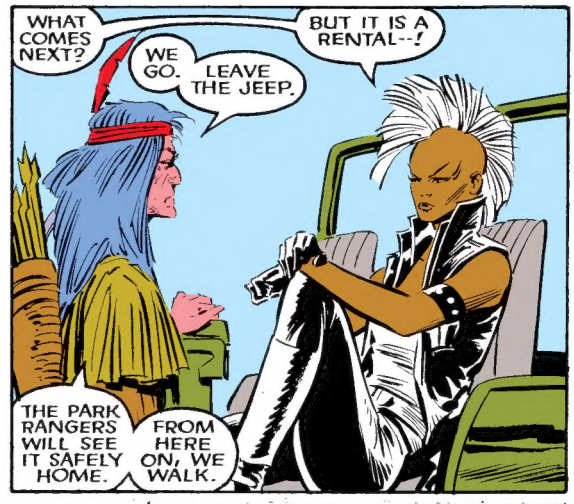

BOTH POSSESS POWER, TEMPORAL AND SPIRITUAL.
BUT BEING HUMAN...
...THEY ARE FLAWED.

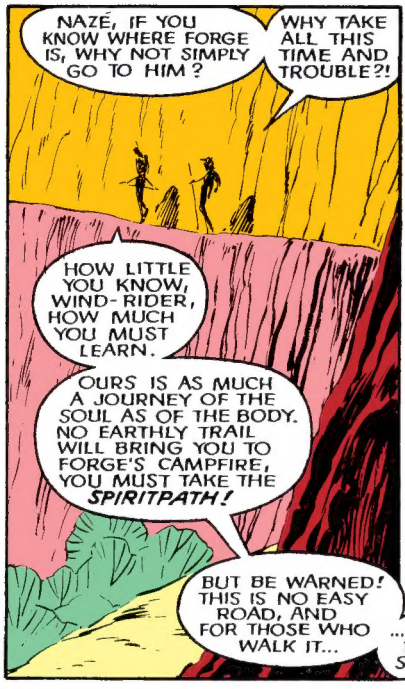
AND THEREFORE...
...VULNERABLE.


FORGE STRIPPED STORM OF HER MUTANT POWER TO COMMAND THE WINDS. SHE SWALLOWED HER PRIDE AND RETURNED TO ASK IF HE COULD RESTORE THEM...
... AND THEREBY, UNKNOWINGLY, ENSNARED HERSELF IN MY WEB.
SHE IS A GOOD LEADER, EVER THINKING OF OTHERS BEFORE HERSELF.
THAT VERY GIFT WILL PROVE HER UNDOING.


SHE IS CONTENT AS SHE IS, YET WILL REASSUME THE BURDEN OF HER POWERS BECAUSE THE X-MEN NEED THAT STRENGTH.
BY THE SAME TOKEN, BEFORE WE ARE DONE, I WILL SO TWIST HER TO MY SHAPING THAT, FOR THOSE SAME NOBLE REASONS...
...SHE WILL DESTROY HER SAVIOR, HER TRUEST LOVE.

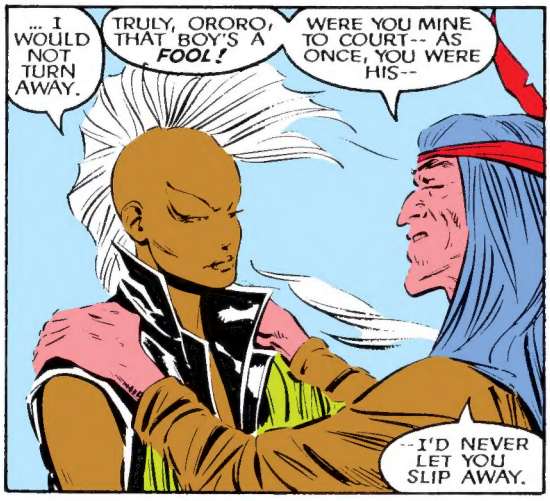

I SAW YOU ON THE RIDGE, NAZÉ.
I AM SHAMAN OF THE CHEYENNE, STORM.
I WAS OFFERING PRAYERS FOR OUR JOURNEY.

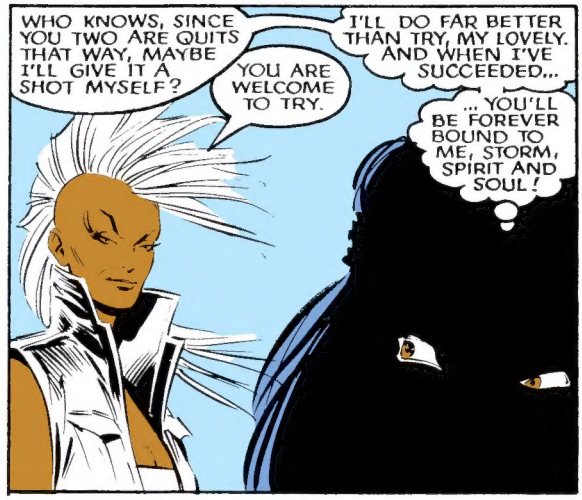

WHAT COMES NEXT?
WE GO.
LEAVE THE JEEP.
BUT IT IS A RENTAL--!
THE PARK RANGERS WILL SEE IT SAFELY HOME.
FROM HERE ON, WE WALK.

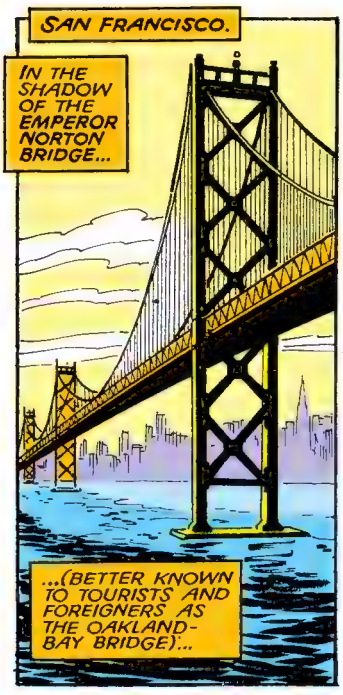

NAZÉ, IF YOU KNOW WHERE FORGE IS, WHY NOT SIMPLY GO TO HIM?
WHY TAKE ALL THIS TIME AND TROUBLE?!
HOW LITTLE YOU KNOW, WIND-RIDER, HOW MUCH YOU MUST LEARN.
OURS IS AS MUCH A JOURNEY OF THE SOUL AS OF THE BODY. NO EARTHLY TRAIL WILL BRING YOU TO FORGE'S CAMPFIRE, YOU MUST TAKE THE SPIRITPATH!
BUT BE WARNED! THIS IS NO EASY ROAD, AND FOR THOSE WHO WALK IT...

YOU HAVE YET TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP.
YOU MAY STILL TURN AWAY.
...NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

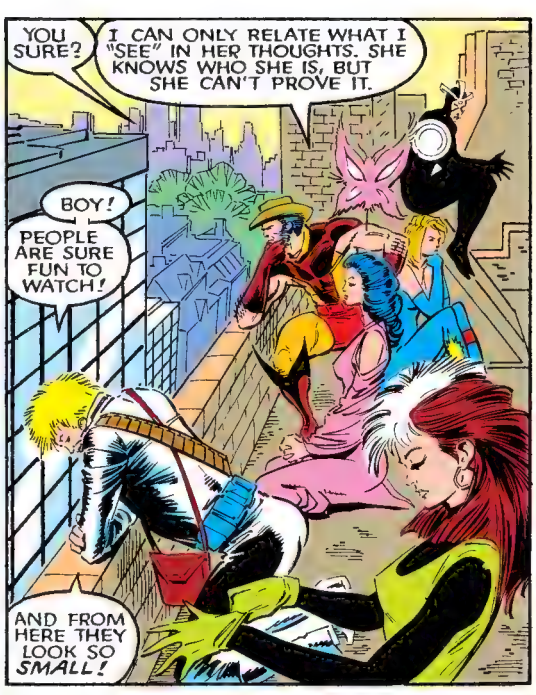
YOU SAY WE MUST EITHER FREE FORGE FROM HIS ENSLAVEMENT BY THIS AGE-OLD ADVERSARY OF HIS...
...OR... DESTROY HIM--
--BECAUSE, IF WE DO NOT, ALL HUMANITY, THIS WHOLE WORLD, WILL SUFFER.
THAT IS SO.
THEN, EVEN IF FORGE AND I WERE THE BITTEREST OF ENEMIES...

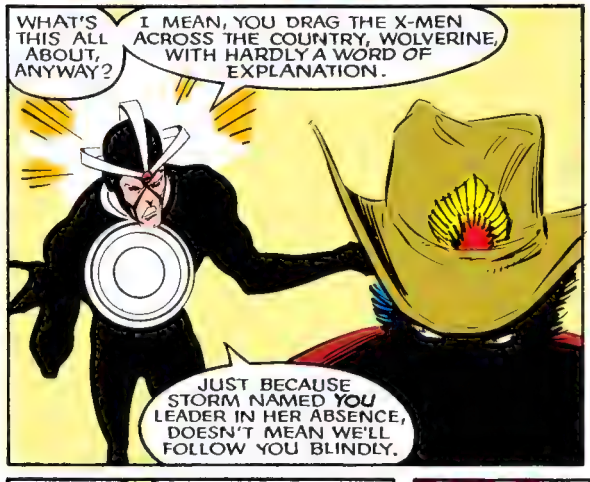

... I WOULD NOT TURN AWAY.
TRULY, ORORO, THAT BOY'S A FOOL!
WERE YOU MINE TO COURT-- AS ONCE, YOU WERE HIS--
--I'D NEVER LET YOU SLIP AWAY.


WHO KNOWS, SINCE YOU TWO ARE QUITS THAT WAY, MAYBE I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT MYSELF?
YOU ARE WELCOME TO TRY.
I'LL DO FAR BETTER THAN TRY, MY LOVELY. AND WHEN I'VE SUCCEEDED...
... YOU'LL BE FOREVER BOUND TO ME, STORM, SPIRIT AND SOUL!


SAN FRANCISCO.
IN THE SHADOW OF THE EMPEROR NORTON BRIDGE...
...(BETTER KNOWN TO TOURISTS AND FOREIGNERS AS THE OAKLAND-BAY BRIDGE)...

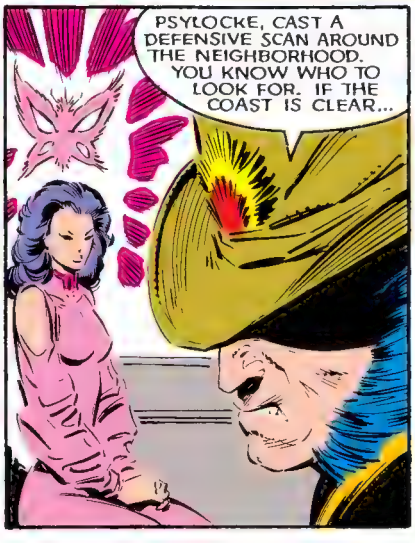
... STANDS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.
EMERGENCY
MY TELEPATHIC SCAN HAS LOCATED MS. PRYOR ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.
QUITE FRANTIC, TOO. EVIDENTLY, ALL RECORDS OF HER EXISTENCE HAVE DISAPPEARED.

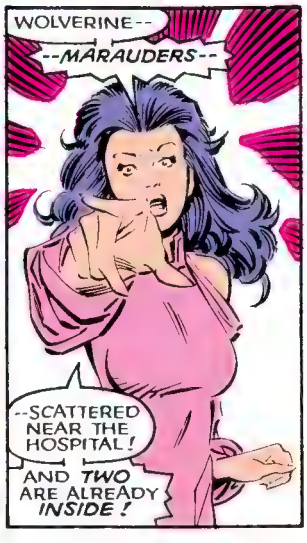

YOU SURE?
I CAN ONLY RELATE WHAT I "SEE" IN HER THOUGHTS. SHE KNOWS WHO SHE IS, BUT SHE CAN'T PROVE IT.
BOY!
PEOPLE ARE SURE FUN TO WATCH!
AND FROM HERE THEY LOOK SO SMALL!

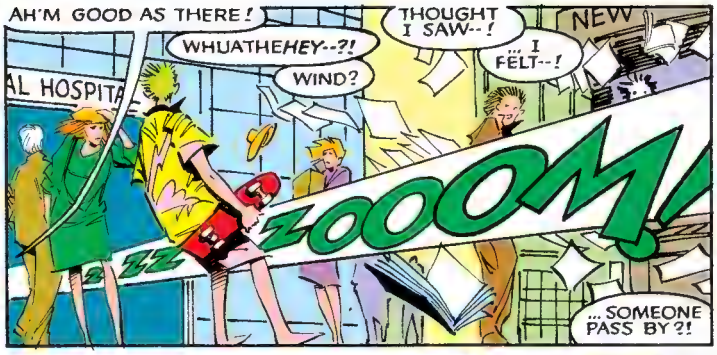

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?
I MEAN, YOU DRAG THE X-MEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WOLVERINE, WITH HARDLY A WORD OF EXPLANATION.
JUST BECAUSE STORM NAMED YOU LEADER IN HER ABSENCE, DOESN'T MEAN WE'LL FOLLOW YOU BLINDLY.

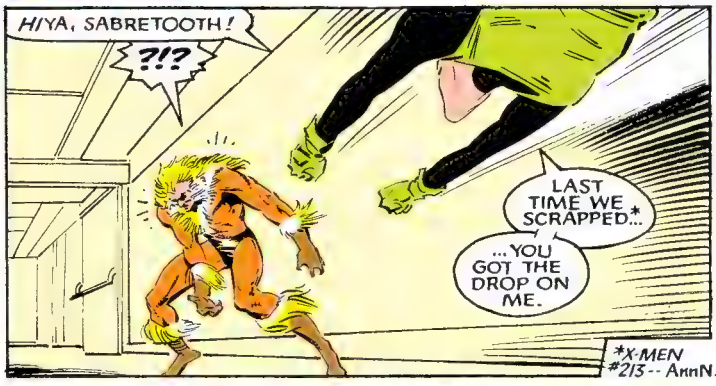
WE'RE HERE, HAVOK, BECAUSE I GOT A CALL FROM YOUR BROTHER'S WIFE--REAL ANGRY, REAL SCARED--DEMANDING TO KNOW WHY CYCLOPS DUMPED HER...
... AN' TOOK THEIR BABY!
THAT'S CRAZY--SCOTT WOULDN'T--!

MAYBE. MAYBE NOT. WE'LL SEE.
WE'RE PLAYIN' CAGEY, 'CAUSE SHE SAID SHE WAS NAILED BY SCALPHUNTER AN' ARCLIGHT.
MARAUDERS?!?
GOLD STAR FOR YOU.

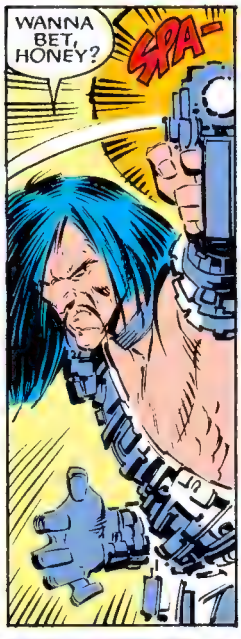

PSYLOCKE, CAST A DEFENSIVE SCAN AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU KNOW WHO TO LOOK FOR. IF THE COAST IS CLEAR...

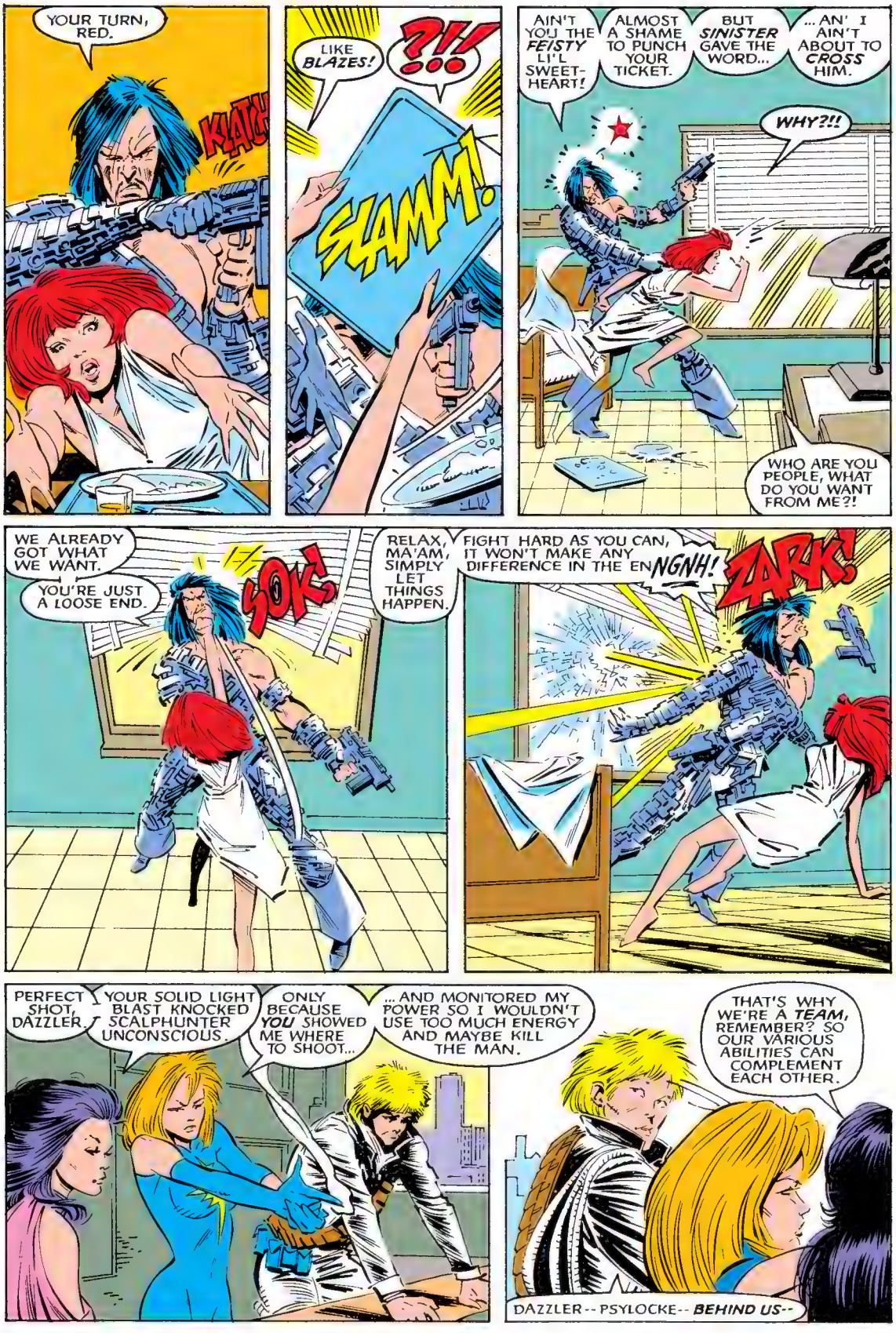

WOLVERINE--
--MARAUDERS--
--SCATTERED NEAR THE HOSPITAL!
AND TWO ARE ALREADY INSIDE!





*X-MEN #213 -- AnnN.



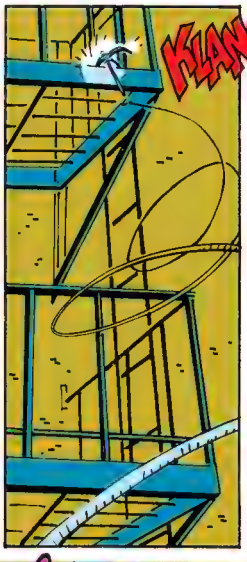

YOUR TURN, RED.
KATCH
LIKE BLAZES!
?!!
SLAMM!
AIN'T YOU THE FEISTY LI'L SWEET-HEART!
ALMOST A SHAME TO PUNCH YOUR TICKET.
BUT SINISTER GAVE THE WORD...
...AN' I AIN'T ABOUT TO CROSS HIM.
WHY?!!
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!
WE ALREADY GOT WHAT WE WANT.
YOU'RE JUST A LOOSE END.
SOK
RELAX, MA'AM, SIMPLY LET THINGS HAPPEN.
FIGHT HARD AS YOU CAN, IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE EN
NGNH!
ZARK!
PERFECT SHOT, DAZZLER.
YOUR SOLID LIGHT BLAST KNOCKED SCALPHUNTER UNCONSCIOUS.
ONLY BECAUSE YOU SHOWED ME WHERE TO SHOOT...
...AND MONITORED MY POWER SO I WOULDN'T USE TOO MUCH ENERGY AND MAYBE KILL THE MAN.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE A TEAM, REMEMBER? SO OUR VARIOUS ABILITIES CAN COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER.
DAZZLER--PSYLOCKE--BEHIND US--

--TROUBLE!
THE WORLD-- SPINNING UPSIDE-DOWN!
CAN'T ORIENT MYSELF--BODY OR THOUGHTS--
--FOCUS CONCEN-TRATION--
--TO LOCATE OUR ATTACKER AND STRIKE BACK!

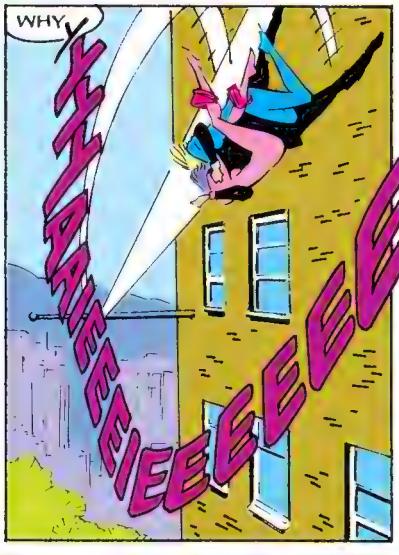
BY THE TIME VERTIGO'S DONE TWISTING YOU INSIDE-OUT, X-DIPS...
...YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE DEAD!

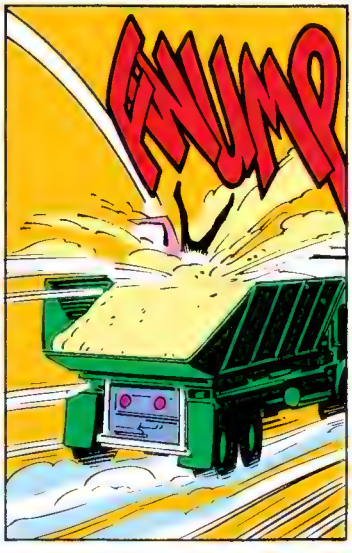
THEN, IT'LL BE THE MARAUDERS' PLEASURE TO MAKE THAT WISH COME TRUE!
LONGSHOT-- OHMIGOSH-- WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!!
AW, GEE-- COULDN'T WAIT, huh?
SUIT YOUR-SELVES.

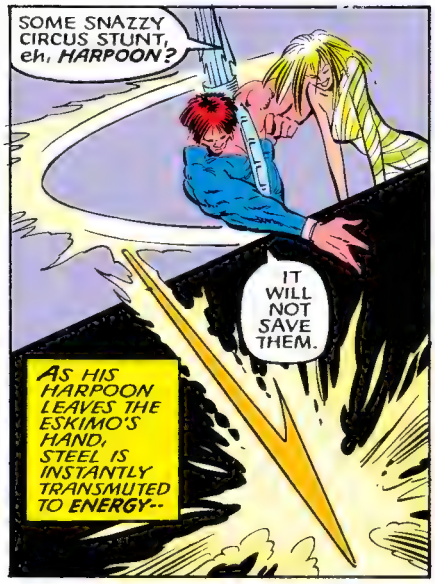
NOT SURE.
IT JUST... SORT OF... FELT RIGHT.
THAT'S CRAZY!
HOLD ON, BOTH OF YOU--
--TIGHT AS YOU CAN!

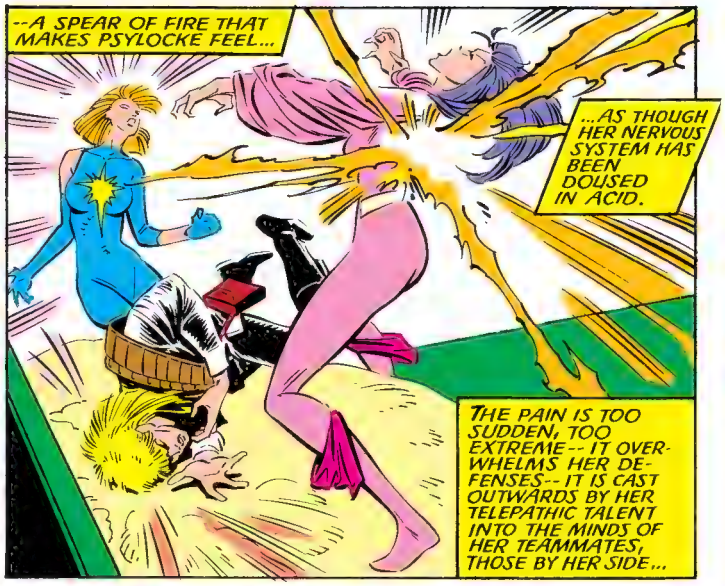

KLANGK!

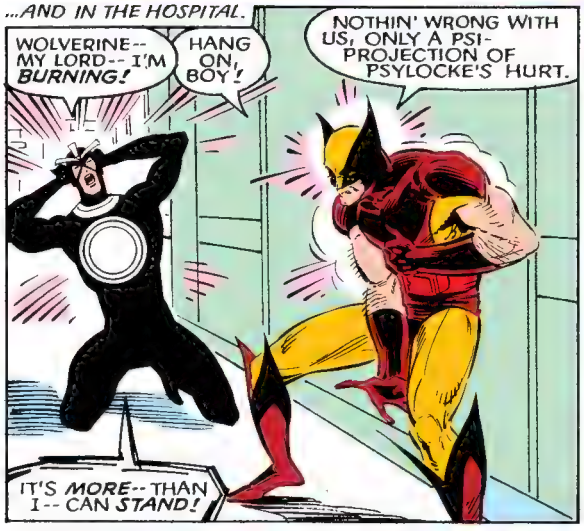
NOW WHAT?!
WE'RE NOT THROUGH YET, ALISON.
BETTER CLOSE YOUR EYES.


WHY
THREEEEEEEEEE


FWUMP

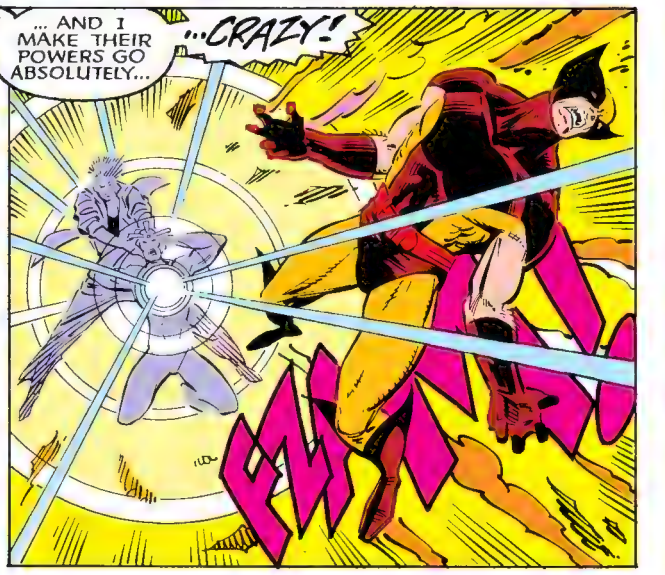

SOME SNAZZY CIRCUS STUNT, eh, HARPOON?
IT WILL NOT SAVE THEM.
AS HIS HARPOON LEAVES THE ESKIMO'S HAND, STEEL IS INSTANTLY TRANSMUTED TO ENERGY--

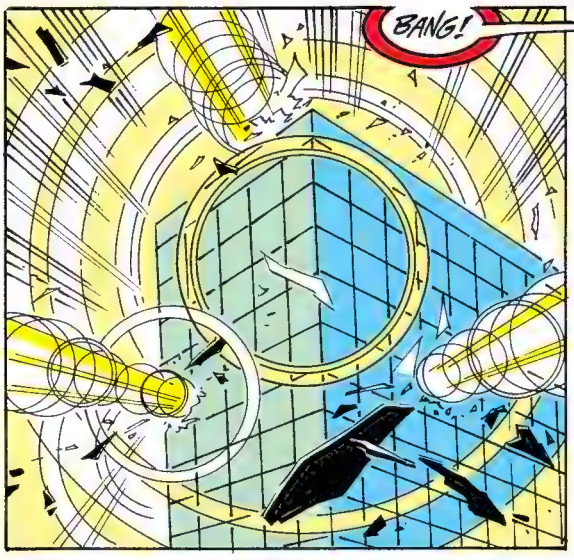

--A SPEAR OF FIRE THAT MAKES PSYLOCKE FEEL...
...AS THOUGH HER NERVOUS SYSTEM HAS BEEN DOUSED IN ACID.
THE PAIN IS TOO SUDDEN, TOO EXTREME-- IT OVERWHELMS HER DEFENSES-- IT IS CAST OUTWARDS BY HER TELEPATHIC TALENT INTO THE MINDS OF HER TEAMMATES, THOSE BY HER SIDE...

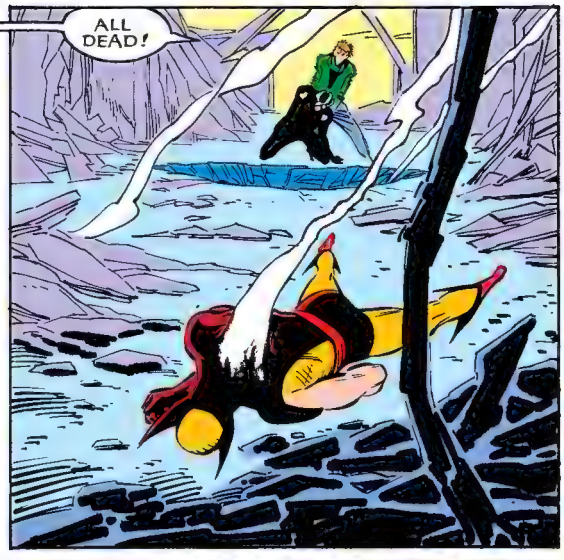

...AND IN THE HOSPITAL.
WOLVERINE-- MY LORD-- I'M BURNING!
HANG ON, BOY!
NOTHIN' WRONG WITH US, ONLY A PSI-PROJECTION OF PSYLOCKE'S HURT.
IT'S MORE-- THAN I-- CAN STAND!

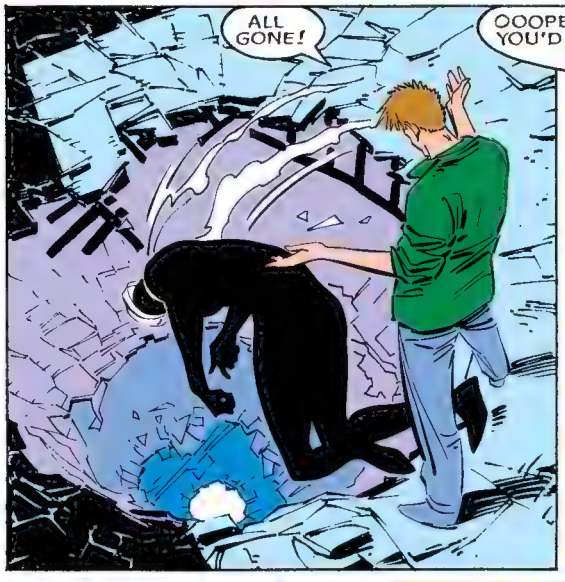
YOU GOT TO!
FIGURED HAVOK TO BE CAST FROM THE SAME MOLD AS HIS BIG BROTHER, CYCLOPS. WHAT IF I'M WRONG, SUPPOSE HE CAN'T HACK IT AS AN X-MAN?!
EMERGENCY
HAVE TO GET AHOLD OF MYSELF!
TEAM'S COUNTING ON ME, CAN'T LET 'EM DOWN!

HI THERE, I'M SCRAMBLER!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TOUCH PEOPLE...

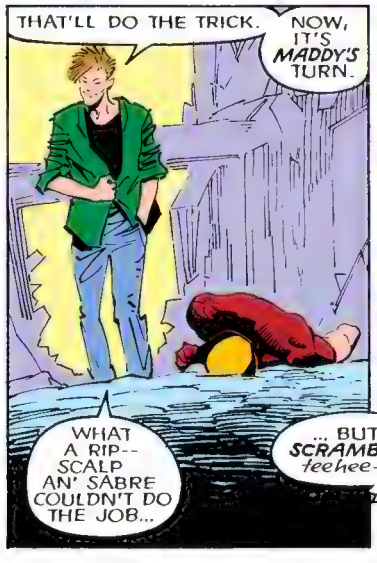

... AND I MAKE THEIR POWERS GO ABSOLUTELY...
...CRAZY!
FWIP!

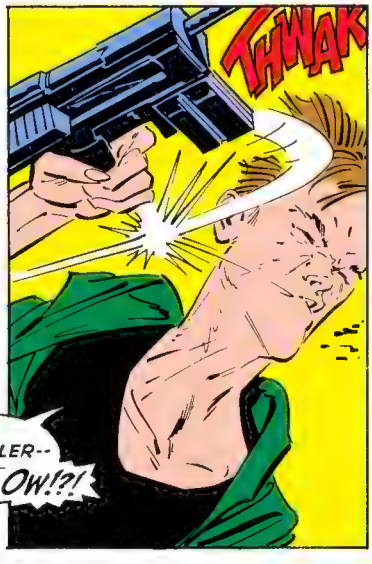

BANG!

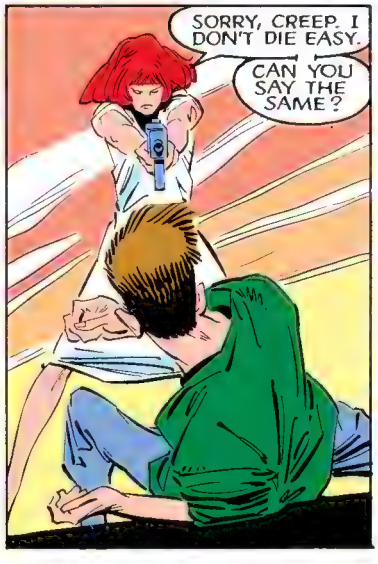

ALL DEAD!

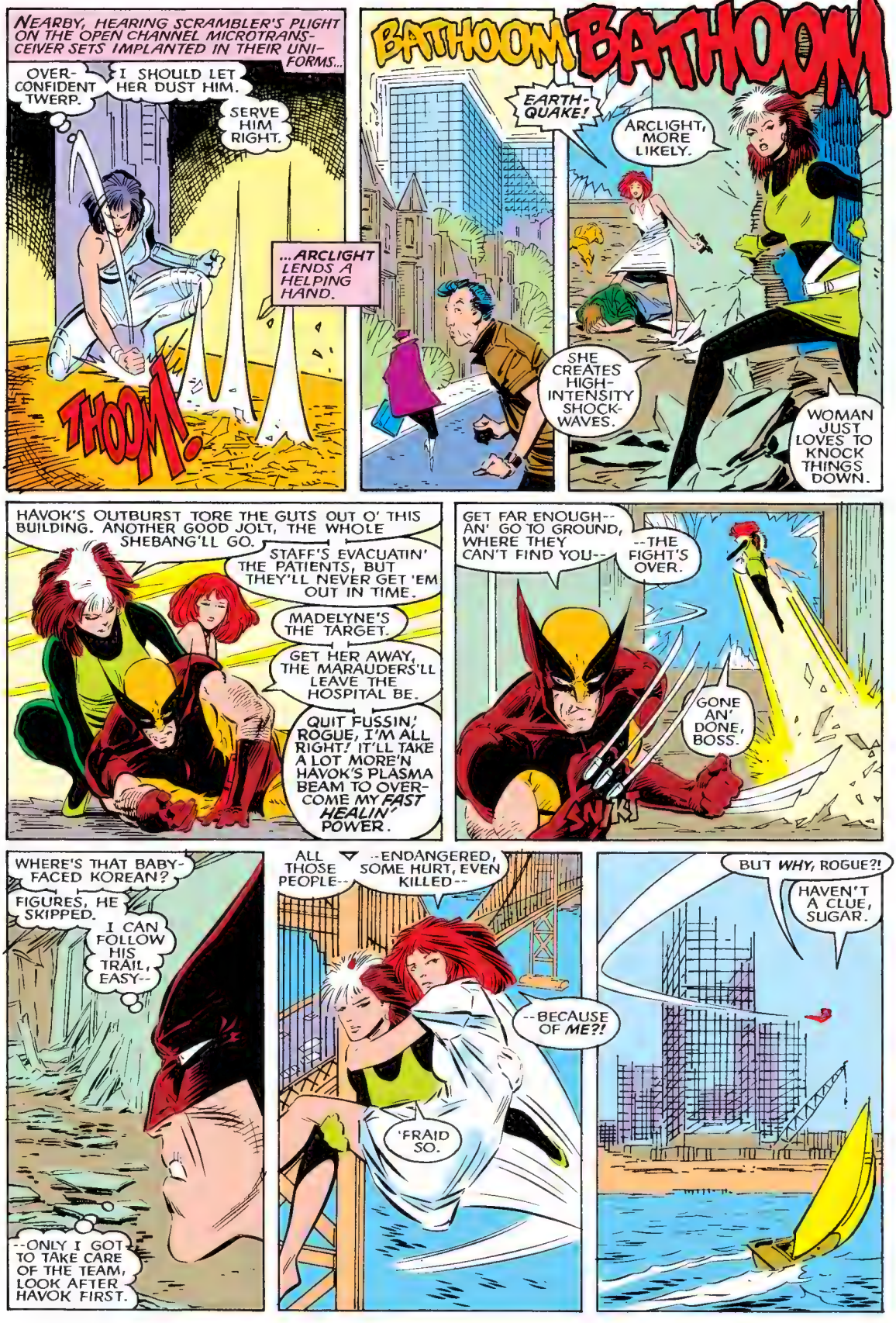

ALL GONE!

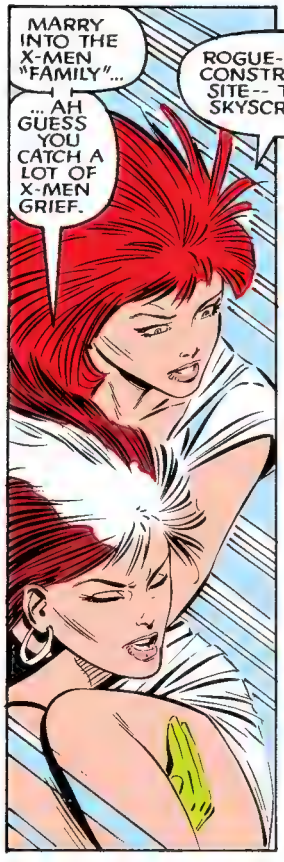
OOOPES! I THOUGHT YOU'D FALL THE WHOLE WAY, HAVOK.
NO MATTER. YOU'RE BALANCED PRETTY PRECARIOUSLY.
WHEN YOU WAKE...
...YOU'LL PROBABLY ROLL OVER.


THAT'LL DO THE TRICK.
NOW, IT'S MADDY'S TURN.
WHAT A RIP-- SCALP AN' SABRE COULDN'T DO THE JOB...


THWAK
... BUT SCRAMBLER-- teehee--
OW!?!


SORRY, CREEP. I DON'T DIE EASY.
CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?

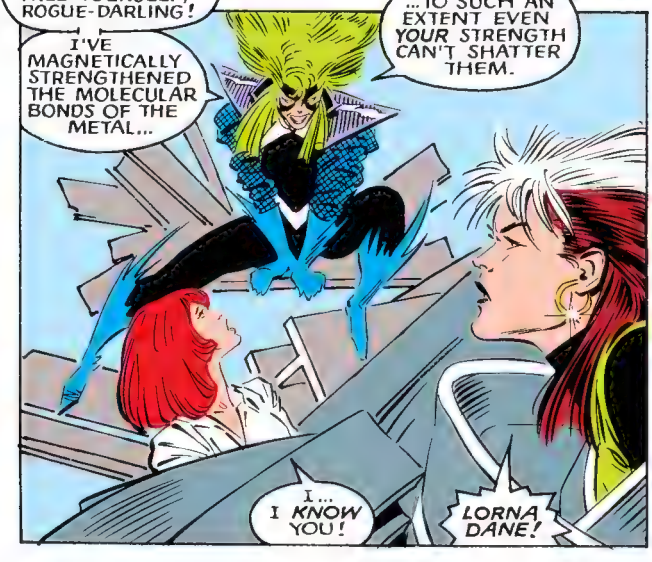

NEARBY, HEARING SCRAMBLER'S PLIGHT ON THE OPEN CHANNEL MICROTRANSCEIVER SETS IMPLANTED IN THEIR UNIFORMS...
OVER-CONFIDENT TWERP.
I SHOULD LET HER DUST HIM.
SERVE HIM RIGHT.
...ARCLIGHT LENDS A HELPING HAND.
THOOM!
BATHOOM BATHOOM
EARTH-QUAKE!
ARCLIGHT, MORE LIKELY.
SHE CREATES HIGH-INTENSITY SHOCK-WAVES.
WOMAN JUST LOVES TO KNOCK THINGS DOWN.
HAVOK'S OUTBURST TORE THE GUTS OUT O' THIS BUILDING. ANOTHER GOOD JOLT, THE WHOLE SHEBANG'LL GO.
STAFF'S EVACUATIN' THE PATIENTS, BUT THEY'LL NEVER GET 'EM OUT IN TIME.
MADELYNE'S THE TARGET.
GET HER AWAY, THE MARAUDERS'LL LEAVE THE HOSPITAL BE.
QUIT FUSSIN', ROGUE, I'M ALL RIGHT! IT'LL TAKE A LOT MORE'N HAVOK'S PLASMA BEAM TO OVERCOME MY FAST HEALIN' POWER.
GET FAR ENOUGH-- AN' GO TO GROUND, WHERE THEY CAN'T FIND YOU--
--THE FIGHT'S OVER.
GONE AN' DONE, BOSS.
SNIKT
WHERE'S THAT BABY-FACED KOREAN?
FIGURES, HE SKIPPED.
I CAN FOLLOW HIS TRAIL, EASY--
--ONLY I GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THE TEAM, LOOK AFTER HAVOK FIRST.
ALL THOSE PEOPLE--
--ENDANGERED, SOME HURT, EVEN KILLED--
--BECAUSE OF ME?!
'FRAID SO.
BUT WHY, ROGUE?!
HAVEN'T A CLUE, SUGAR.

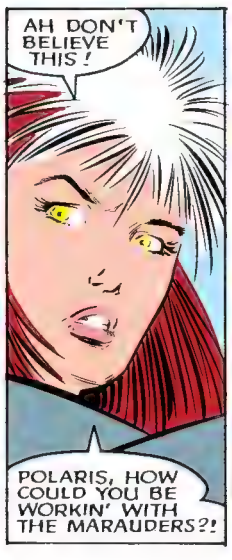

MARRY INTO THE X-MEN "FAMILY"...
... AH GUESS YOU CATCH A LOT OF X-MEN GRIEF.

ROGUE--THAT CONSTRUCTION SITE-- THE SKYSCRAPER--!
Aw, CRUMBS!

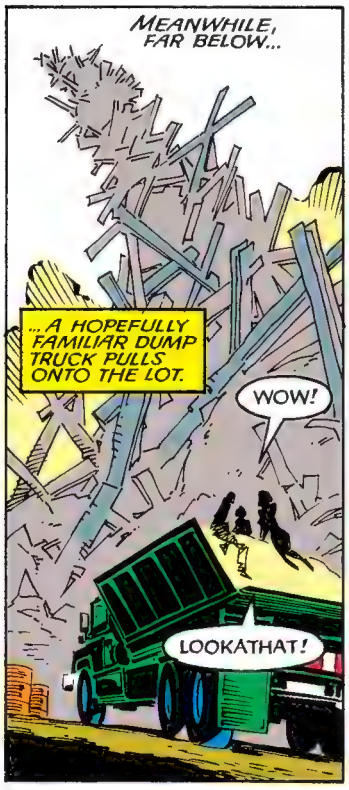
THE GIRDERS-- THEY'RE CLIMBING AFTER US!
CAN'T OUTRUN 'EM!

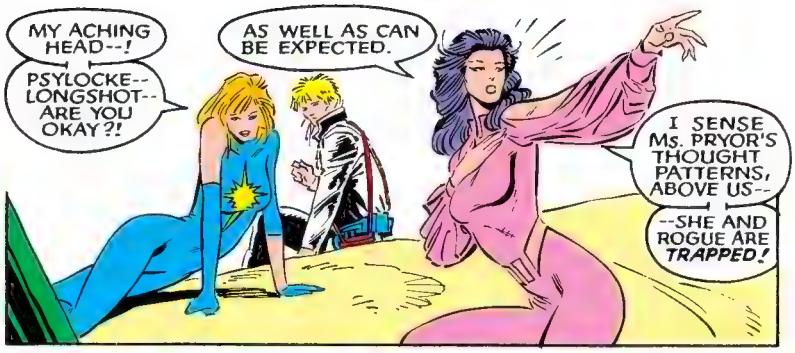
WE'RE CAUGHT!

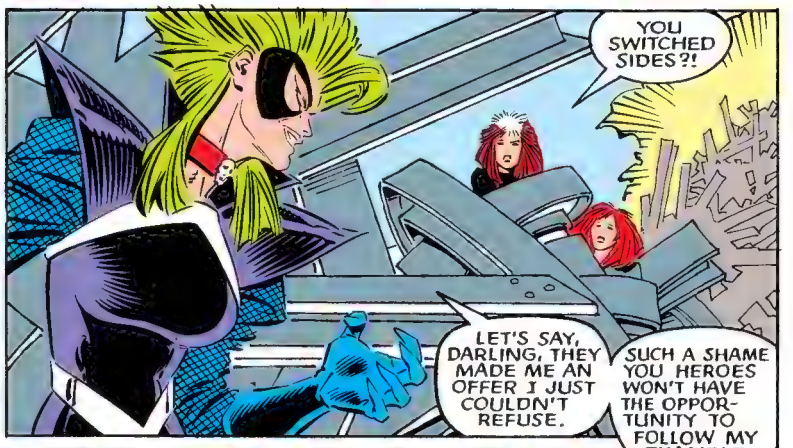

DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO FREE YOURSELF, ROGUE-DARLING!
I'VE MAGNETICALLY STRENGTHENED THE MOLECULAR BONDS OF THE METAL...
...TO SUCH AN EXTENT EVEN YOUR STRENGTH CAN'T SHATTER THEM.
I... I KNOW YOU!
LORNA DANE!

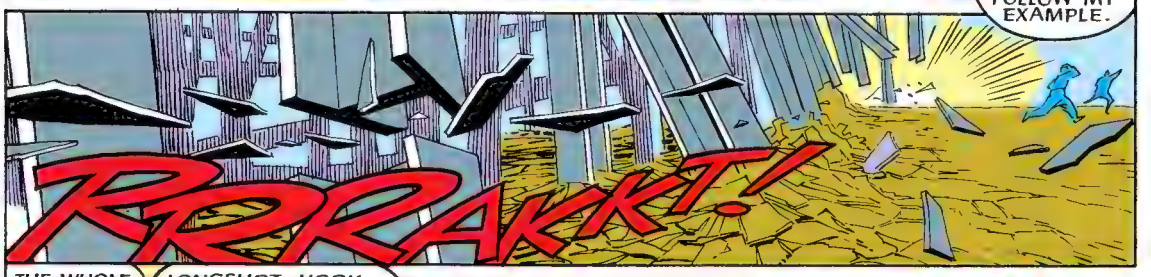

AH DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
POLARIS, HOW COULD YOU BE WORKIN' WITH THE MARAUDERS?!

SILLY GIRL, I LEAD THE MARAUDERS!


MEANWHILE, FAR BELOW...
... A HOPEFULLY FAMILIAR DUMP TRUCK PULLS ONTO THE LOT.
WOW!
LOOKATHAT!

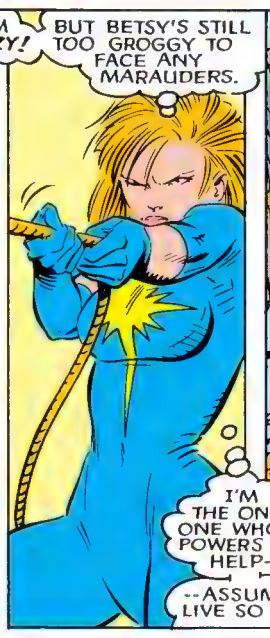

MY ACHING HEAD--!
PSYLOCKE--LONGSHOT--ARE YOU OKAY?!
AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED.
I SENSE Ms. PRYOR'S THOUGHT PATTERNS, ABOVE US--
--SHE AND ROGUE ARE TRAPPED!


YOU SWITCHED SIDES?!
LET'S SAY, DARLING, THEY MADE ME AN OFFER I JUST COULDN'T REFUSE.
SUCH A SHAME YOU HEROES WON'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE.


RRRAKKT!

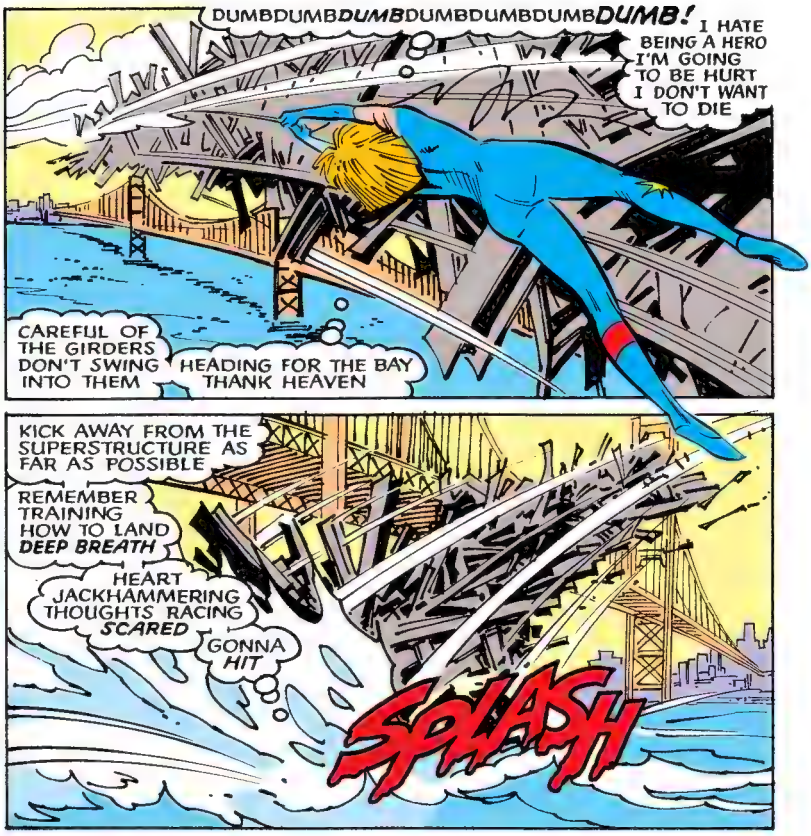
THE WHOLE BUILDING'S BEING YANKED OUT OF THE GROUND!
LONGSHOT, HOOK YOUR GRAPNAL TO THE SUPERSTRUCTURE, THEN PASS ME THE LINE!

KTVK!

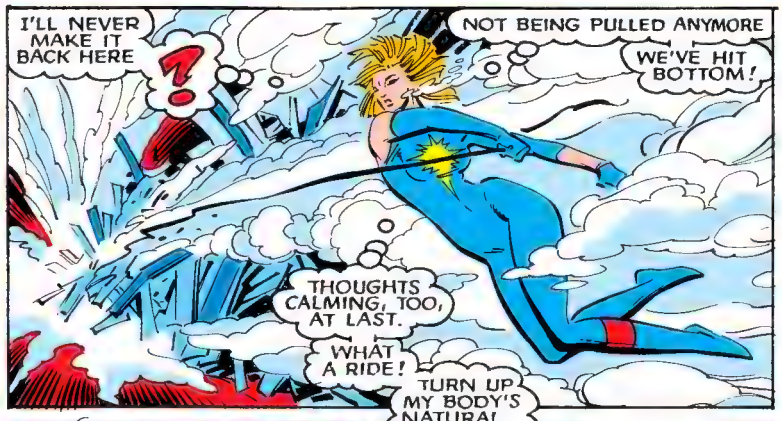

I'M CRAZY!
BUT BETSY'S STILL TOO GROGGY TO FACE ANY MARAUDERS.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHOSE POWERS CAN HELP--
--ASSUMING I LIVE SO LONG!

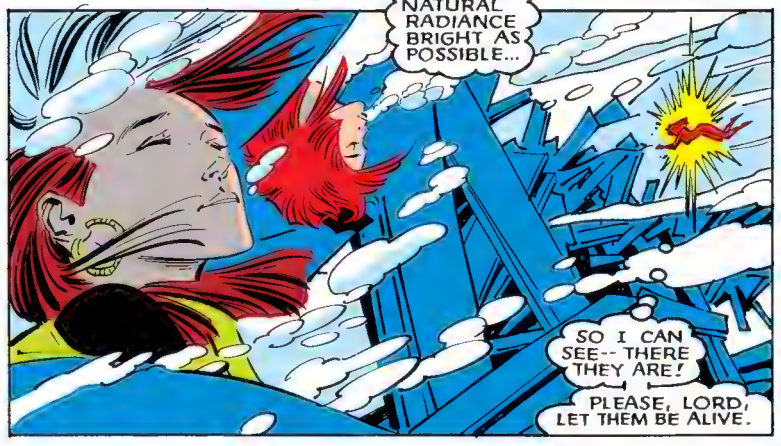
RAKOW!

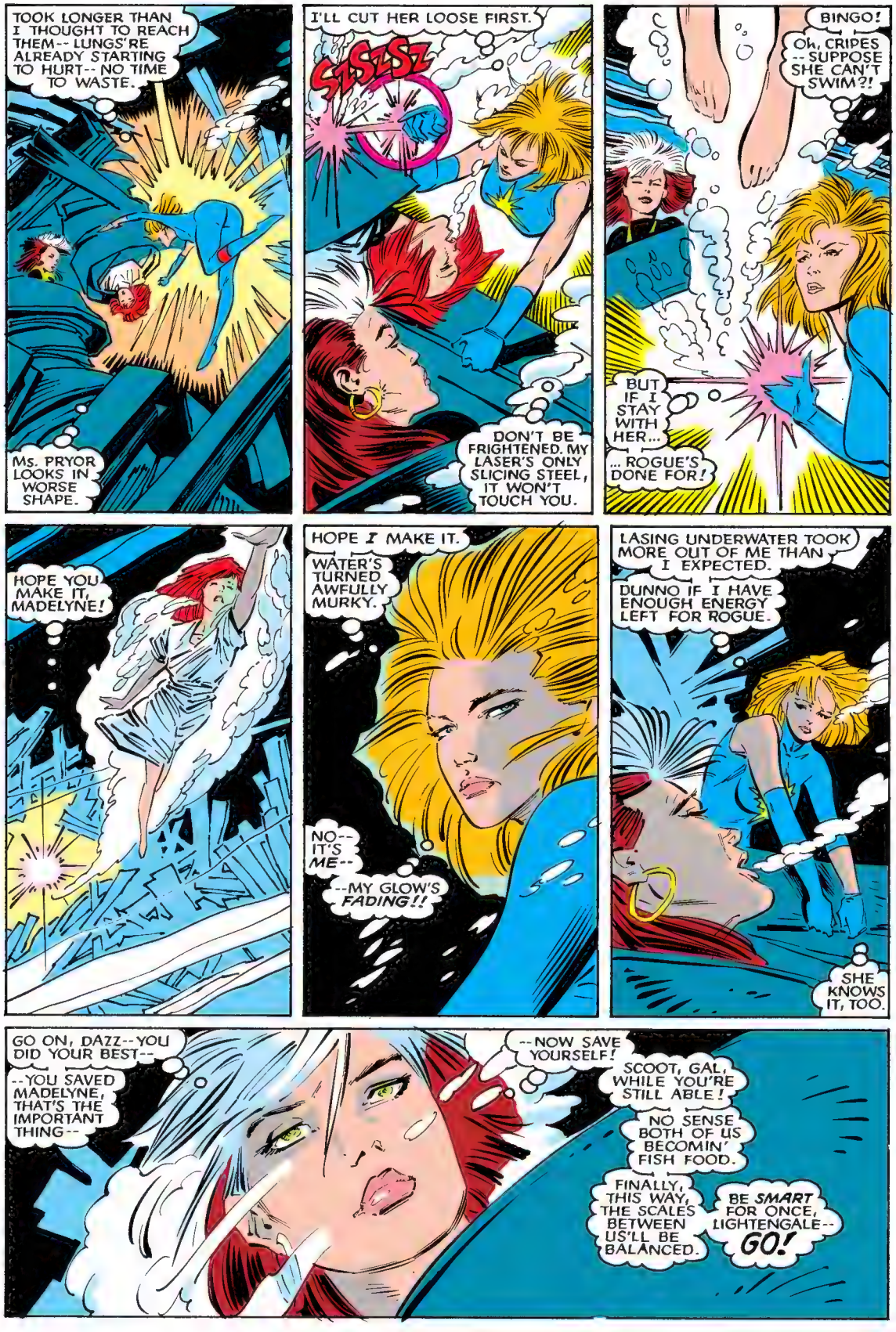
HERE I GO!
WISH ME LUCK!
ALL I HAVE!


DUMBDUMBDUMBDUMBDUMBDUMBDUMB!
I HATE BEING A HERO I'M GOING TO BE HURT I DON'T WANT TO DIE
CAREFUL OF THE GIRDERS DON'T SWING INTO THEM
HEADING FOR THE BAY THANK HEAVEN
KICK AWAY FROM THE SUPERSTRUCTURE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE
REMEMBER TRAINING HOW TO LAND DEEP BREATH
HEART JACKHAMMERING THOUGHTS RACING SCARED
GONNA HIT
SPLASH

STILL ALIVE FAR OUT NOTHIN' BUSTED HOW LUCKY CAN I GET
BODY'S GOING TO BE AS BLACK AND BLUE AS MY COSTUME HURTS ALL OVER
WATER SO COLD
KEEP HOLD OF LONGSHOT'S LINE
CURRENT'S SO SWIFT IF I LET GO


I'LL NEVER MAKE IT BACK HERE
?
NOT BEING PULLED ANYMORE
WE'VE HIT BOTTOM!
THOUGHTS CALMING, TOO, AT LAST.
WHAT A RIDE!


TURN UP MY BODY'S NATURAL RADIANCE BRIGHT AS POSSIBLE...
SO I CAN SEE-- THERE THEY ARE!
PLEASE, LORD, LET THEM BE ALIVE.


TOOK LONGER THAN I THOUGHT TO REACH THEM-- LUNGS'RE ALREADY STARTING TO HURT-- NO TIME TO WASTE.
Ms. PRYOR LOOKS IN WORSE SHAPE.
I'LL CUT HER LOOSE FIRST.
SLSZSZ
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. MY LASER'S ONLY SLICING STEEL, IT WON'T TOUCH YOU.
BINGO!
Oh, CRIPES -- SUPPOSE SHE CAN'T SWIM?!
BUT IF I STAY WITH HER...
... ROGUE'S DONE FOR!
HOPE YOU MAKE IT, MADELYNE!
HOPE I MAKE IT.
WATER'S TURNED AWFULLY MURKY.
NO-- IT'S ME--
--MY GLOW'S FADING!!
LASING UNDERWATER TOOK MORE OUT OF ME THAN I EXPECTED.
DUNNO IF I HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT FOR ROGUE.
SHE KNOWS IT, TOO.
GO ON, DAZZ--YOU DID YOUR BEST--
--YOU SAVED MADELYNE, THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING--
--NOW SAVE YOURSELF!
SCOOT, GAL, WHILE YOU'RE STILL ABLE!
NO SENSE BOTH OF US BECOMIN' FISH FOOD.
FINALLY, THIS WAY, THE SCALES BETWEEN US'LL BE BALANCED.
BE SMART FOR ONCE, LIGHTENGALE-- GO!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Ma'am, if Uncle Sam wanted me to be Mickey Mouse, I'd do it. I'm that kind of American—the kind you can count on."

—John Walker, the new Captain America
CAPTAIN AMERICA #333

ITEM: After almost forty years as a care-free freelancer, Dancing Don Perlin has finally decided to leave home in search of honest employment. He's giving up the easy life to become our staff Art Director. Don did his first Marvel artwork for smiling Stan Lee way back in 1948, and the dancing one also briefly worked for STAR COMICS editor Sid Jacobson (who was at HARVEY COMICS at the time) during the early 1950's. Over the years, Don has contributed his artistic talents to such Marvel masterpieces as THE TRANSFORMERS, G.I. JOE, THE DEFENDERS, CAPTAIN AMERICA and the GHOST RIDER.

Among Don's numerous new duties will be the supervising of all in-house art corrections, and he'll even be helping Jazzy Johnny Romita direct the artistic efforts of Romita's Raiders . . . which are now called Perlin's Pirates!

ITEM: Notice to all fans of MARVEL SAGA, ALPHA FLIGHT, and STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI. By popular demand these three magazines will be joining the ever-popular POWER PACK as part of our exclusive direct distribution line! However, don't despair if you don't have a direct comic book outlet in your neighborhood. You can always fill out the handy coupon which appears elsewhere in this issue, and order these books through our sensational subscription department.

ITEM: Here—at long last—are the winners of the NEW UNIVERSE SUPER SLEUTH SWEEPSTAKES Contest which we ran a few months ago.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER
(who won a 12 month subscription to all eight titles in the New Universe, plus a page of Original New Universe Artwork, and a nifty Red Marvel Baseball Jacket—just like the ones we only make available to our staff people and special friends)

Joe Allmann
Seymour, IN 47274

FIRST PRIZE WINNERS
(who won 6 month subscriptions to all eight titles in the New Universe, plus a Red Marvel Baseball Jacket)

John Wolf, Succasunna, NJ
Greg Krumm, Indialantic, FL
Lim Bee Khiam, Singapore
Jeffrey Brace, Red Bank, NJ

SECOND PRIZE WINNERS
(who won a 12 month subscription to the New Universe title of his choice and a Red Marvel Baseball Jacket)

Michael A. Scoggins, Oakland, CA
John Sloan Carroll, Rocky Mount, VA
Robert Orr, North Shore, CA
Derek Gordon, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Emery V. Swagerty, Hugoton, KS
Doug Simonton, Katy, TX
David Davis, Haleyville, AL
Ben Sanford, Longmeadow, MA
Robert Cosby, Salem, KY
Freddy King, Flushing, NY

THIRD PRIZE WINNERS
(who win a 6 month subscription to the New Universe title of his choice and a Merry Marvel Baseball Cap)

John Sellaro, Morgantown, WV
Michael Dobson, Hattiesburg, MS
Edward Lim, Diamond Bar, CA
Sidney Casiano, Bronx, NY
Danny Rodriguez, Buffalo, NY
Antoine Bryant, Brooklyn, NY
Daniel R. Holmes, Athens, TX
Simeon Wildman, Thibodaux, LA
Danny M. Jenkins, Jr., Jacksonville, FL
Charles Balser, Tucson, AZ

Pro File on: TOM DeFALCO

Executive Editor for all Marvel and Star Comics

Marvel freelance credits (past): *Writer on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MACHINE, MAN, FIRESTAR, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE and a host of fill-in stories!*

Marvel freelance credits (present): *Writer on THE MIGHTY THOR and the new HAWKEYE series that will be appearing in SOLO AVENGERS.*

My hobbies are: *Smoking foul-smelling cigars and consuming vast quantities of pizza.*

The single work which I am most proud of is: *My run on SPIDER-MAN.*

My pet peeves are: *Taxes, insurance companies, pushy fans, and freelancers who don't bathe regularly.*

My place of birth is: *Queens, New York*

My oddest habit is: *That I always try to keep my identity a secret to protect my loved ones.*

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: *The guy who plays Lieutenant Buntz on HILL STREET BLUES.*

People who knew me in High School thought I was: *From a different plane of reality.*

My favorite performers are: *Gary Shandling and Madonna.*

The last good book I read was: *BEASTS OF VALHALLA by George C. Chesbro and BANG THE DRUM SLOWLY by Mark Harris*

The biggest influences on my work include: *Edgar Rice Burroughs, Stan Lee, Ed McBain and Walt Kelly.*

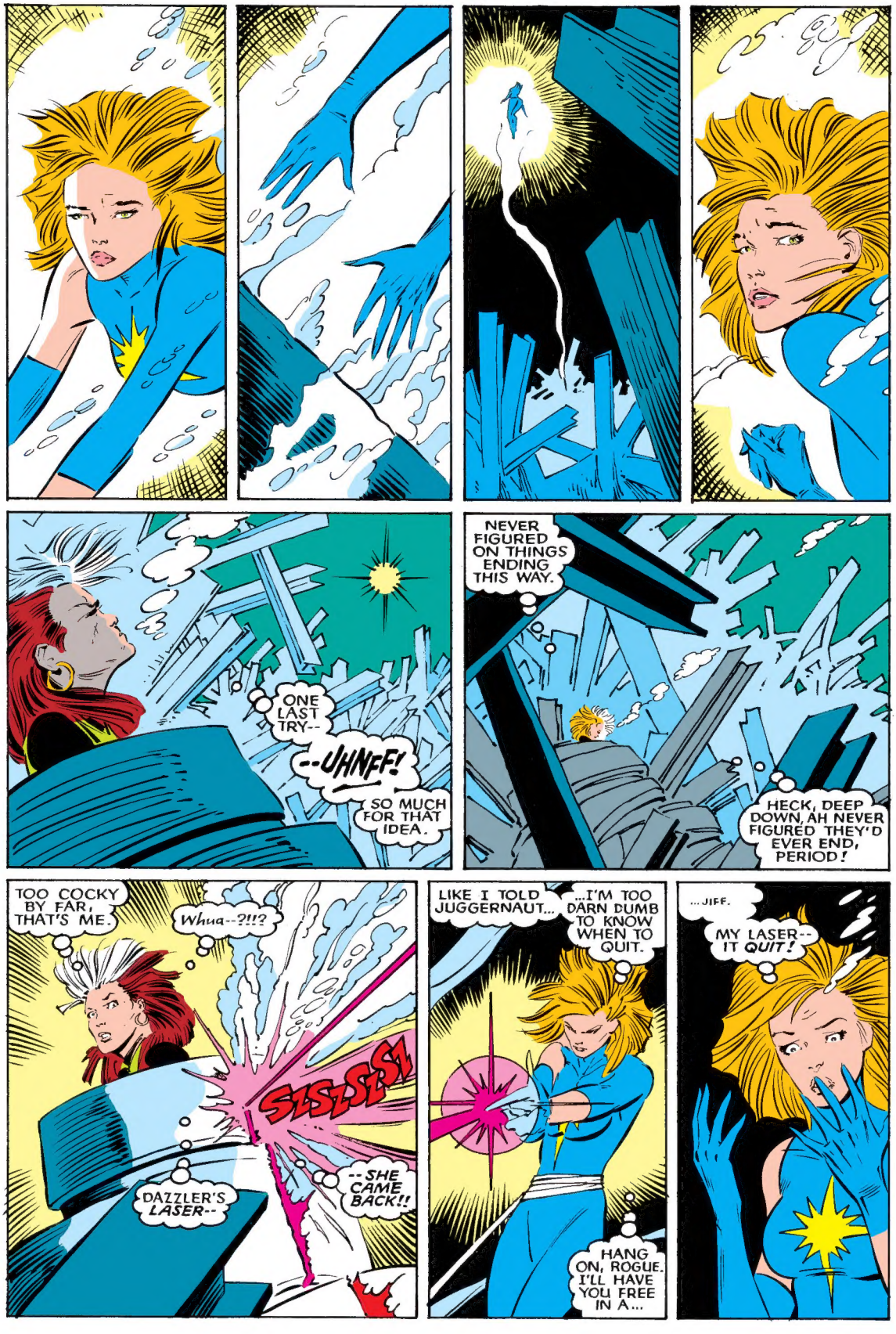
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: *To become the regular writer on CAPTAIN AMERICA.*

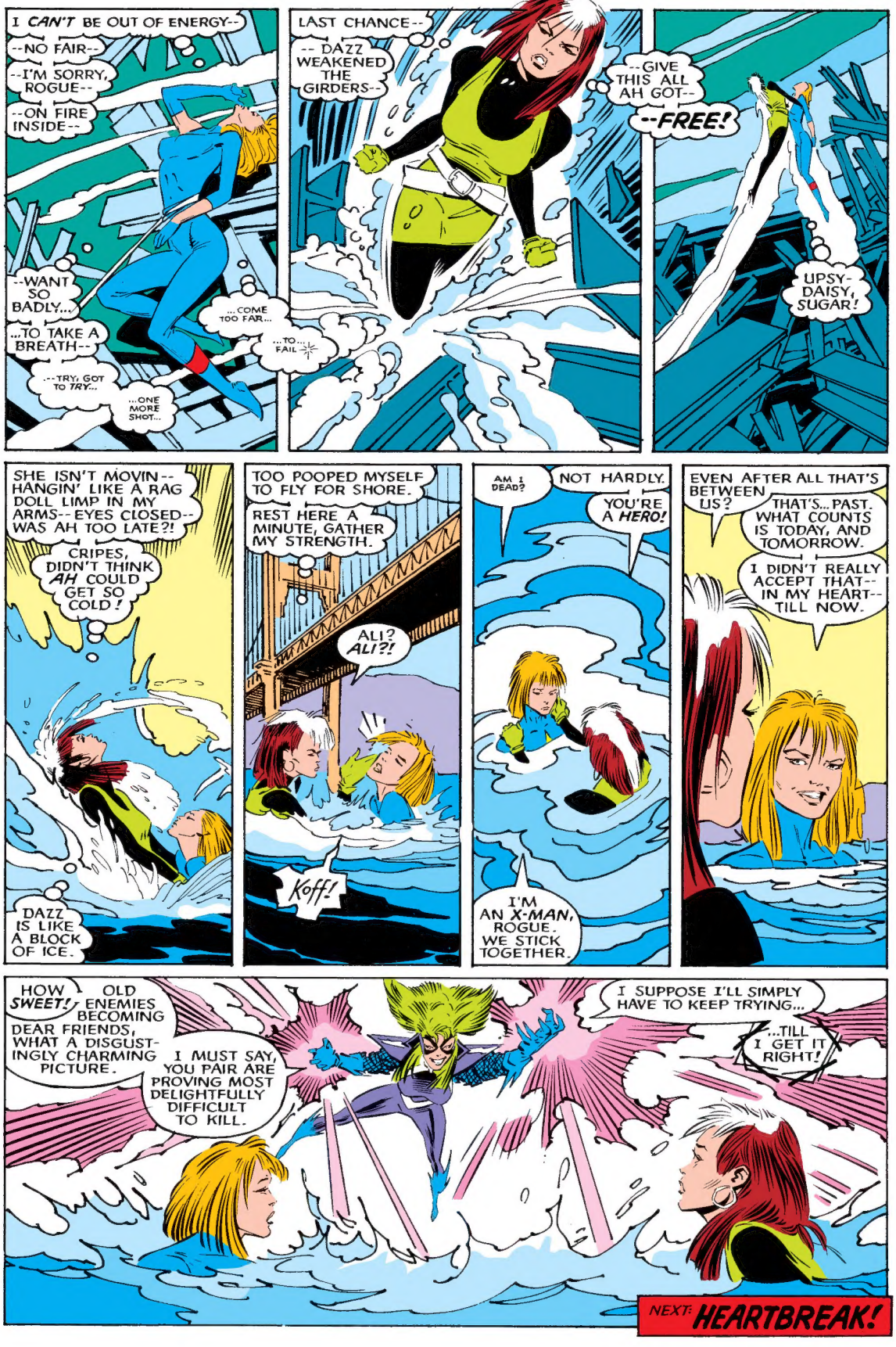
When nobody's looking I like to: *Reread my old comics.*

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: *That I'm really having a great time here! Thanks for giving me the opportunity!*

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #246**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #55**—Meet the Bird Boy!
- ☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #10**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #30**—The origin of the Rose!
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #24**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #42**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #3**—It's a battle like you've never even imagined before! You won't believe your eyes when Warlock takes on Impossible Man!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #292**—It's a special lead-in to *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21!*
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #333**—The government finds someone else to wear the Captain America uniform!
- ☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **STRANGE TALES #6**—Featuring Dr. Strange and Cloak & Dagger!
- ☐ **HEADMASTERS (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #50**—Loki is the menace in this double-sized special issue!
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #2**—Teamed up with the East Coast Avengers to tackle the villainy of the Grandmaster! Continues in *Silver Surfer #3!*
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN DIGEST #5**—Reprinting *Amazing Spider-Man #65-67*, by STAN LEE and JOHN ROMITA, SR.
- ☐ **AVENGERS #283**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #335**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #203**—Reprinting *Marvel Team-Up #67*, by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BYRNE.
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #3**—The Kree/Skrull War builds up! Continues in *Avengers Annual #16!*
- ☐ **X-MEN #221**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #198**—With Red Sonja!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #63**
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #22**—A special issue tracing the entire history of the Peter Parker-Mary Jane relationship!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21**—It's here! It's real! And it's happening now! The wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson! You're invited, too! Hey, this is THE social event of the season, so don't miss out!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #20**—Only one man would risk the life of Franklin Richards in a battle with Mephisto! His name is . . . Doctor Doom!
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #10**—Terrorism in Saigon!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #222**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #306**—With the Inhumans!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #130**
- ☐ **THOR #383**—An untold tale of the "Secret Wars!"
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #20**
- ☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #13**—Reprinting *X-Men #105*, by CHRIS CLAREMONT and DAVE COCKRUM.
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #32**
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS DIGEST #5**
- ☐ **X-MEN INDEX #3**—A deluxe edition featuring everything you want to know about what happened in *X-Men #47–60!*


ONE LAST TRY--
--UHNFF!
SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.
NEVER FIGURED ON THINGS ENDING THIS WAY.
HECK, DEEP DOWN, AH NEVER FIGURED THEY'D EVER END, PERIOD!
TOO COCKY BY FAR, THAT'S ME.
Whua--?!!?
SISSSS
DAZZLER'S LASER--
--SHE CAME BACK!!
LIKE I TOLD JUGGERNAUT...
...I'M TOO DARN DUMB TO KNOW WHEN TO QUIT.
HANG ON, ROGUE. I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A...
...JIFF.
MY LASER-- IT QUIT!


I CAN'T BE OUT OF ENERGY--
--NO FAIR--
--I'M SORRY, ROGUE--
--ON FIRE INSIDE--
--WANT SO BADLY...
...TO TAKE A BREATH--
--TRY, GOT TO TRY...
...ONE MORE SHOT...
LAST CHANCE--
-- DAZZ WEAKENED THE GIRDERS--
...COME TOO FAR...
...TO... FAIL
--GIVE THIS ALL AH GOT--
--FREE!
UPSY-DAISY, SUGAR!
SHE ISN'T MOVIN-- HANGIN' LIKE A RAG DOLL LIMP IN MY ARMS-- EYES CLOSED-- WAS AH TOO LATE?!
CRIPES, DIDN'T THINK AH COULD GET SO COLD!
DAZZ IS LIKE A BLOCK OF ICE.
TOO POOPED MYSELF TO FLY FOR SHORE.
REST HERE A MINUTE, GATHER MY STRENGTH.
ALI? ALI?!
Koff!
AM I DEAD?
NOT HARDLY.
YOU'RE A HERO!
I'M AN X-MAN, ROGUE. WE STICK TOGETHER.
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT'S BETWEEN US?
THAT'S... PAST. WHAT COUNTS IS TODAY, AND TOMORROW.
I DIDN'T REALLY ACCEPT THAT-- IN MY HEART-- TILL NOW.
HOW SWEET! OLD ENEMIES BECOMING DEAR FRIENDS, WHAT A DISGUSTINGLY CHARMING PICTURE.
I MUST SAY, YOU PAIR ARE PROVING MOST DELIGHTFULLY DIFFICULT TO KILL.
I SUPPOSE I'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO KEEP TRYING...
...TILL I GET IT RIGHT!
NEXT: HEARTBREAK!

X-MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TERRY KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Mutant Makers,

I want you to know that I just recently finished reading X-MEN #215, and may I say that it is one of the best written since #205!

The clouds of mystery surrounding the enigmatic Madelyne Pryor are growing thicker by the issue. Is she the supposedly deceased Phoenix? Is the stage being set for a grand reentrance by the long-lost omnipotent alien? If so, heaven help humanity!

Going further on the subject, I'm pleased to find out that ol' Dazz is back with the team again—frankly, it's where she should have been all this time! However, it's time she got herself a new costume. The one she's stuck with now just doesn't cut it, if you know what I mean. As for Miss Braddock's, I like it. It . . . well, it "suits" her. Get it? To rate Mr. Longshot on my scale is easy. The hair—terrif! The outfit—acceptable, it makes the grade. The smile—he can do well without it. It's too grossly exaggerated, it's not natural. Besides, it reminds me of the way I used to smile as a kid, and that's one memory *I* can definitely do without.

In addition, I would like to critique ol' Wolvie on his discovery of Jean's scent. In a nutshell—very nicely done. The scene was right, the tone was right, the mood was right, everything was right—except for one question which remains unanswered. Is he just in shock over the discovery, or (dare I even think it?) have I just experienced the rattling of someone's sanity?

Now for the *piece de resistance*—thank you, Marvel, for creating Super Sabre, Crimson Commando, and Stonewall. Though I will admit they are a bit misguided in their ways, I must also admit that I have never before met any trio of men who cared for their country the way these three do. And practically all of what they said rings shockingly true—our country is falling to pieces in more ways than one, and only a major league turnaround can stave off a major disaster. Wake up, America, and open your eyes! Morals are being undermined, and drug runners are infesting the country with impunity. Popular music has fallen into a rut, people are letting terrorism and organized crime run unchecked and no decisive action is taken. All this boils down to the fact that, in their own way, Crimson Commando, Stonewall, and Super Sabre are right. Unless someone takes a stand, there soon may be no one left to do so. A lot of people may have spoken out on the subject, but none have presented it as simply and as clearly as these three old soldiers. They certainly have a kindred spirit in me. Bravo, Marvel. Bravo.

William B. Barry
Box 100, J.C. Williams Center
University of Steubenville
Steubenville, OH 43952

Dear Chris,

This is my first letter to THE X-MEN. I'm thirteen and I've been collecting comics since I was six. I have at least half of THE X-MEN series, my oldest being #21. Over the years I have had many an urge to write to this particular title, but now I have been inspired.

This letter concerns issue #215. Overall, I found it very disturbing. Wolverine striking Storm and men on the edge of reality who hunt down innocents. A regular trio, the judge, jury, and executioner. The people they hunt down are considered criminals, but is it not true that these people have rights?

I couldn't care less if Stonewall, Super Sabre, and Crimson Commando were suddenly wiped off the face of the Earth by mutant hunters. (Although, they are good characters!)

Until Wolverine quits smoking cigars, Make Mine Marvel!

(Longshot is great!)

Ryan Ross
8 Hilltop Drive
Manotick, Ontario, CANADA 632 K0A 2N0

X-People,

Some comments on X-MEN #215—

Alan Davis is a good find! I've never heard of him before, has he ever done anything else for Marvel? However, what is Paul Smith doing? His work with Bob Wiacek was as perfect a combination as John Romita, Jr. and Dan Green!

Colossus, Nightcrawler, and Shadowcat are great characters and I hate to see them leave the team (or possibly die), but I can accept this. It's time to breathe new life into this mag—and do it while it's still a top seller. Dazzler, Havok and Longshot are great additions! I'm not so sure about Psylocke—great name, though.

I love Longshot's costume and I've always liked Havok's (except for those things on his head). Black is a great color for costumes! I've finally decided I like the way Storm looks. In her line of work, she couldn't possibly remain the serene nature-goddess.

Well, thanks for listening to my babbling and rambling. I'd just like to say that your comics have helped me a lot. When I'm dead tired and don't feel I can take much more, comics get me back on my feet.

So, until Wolverine drinks lemonade, Make Mine Marvel!

Jordan Moore
5840 Vesper Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91411

Dear X-People,

I must say that I liked only half of X-MEN #215. I mean, here are the X-Men facing one of their more difficult situations, three members badly injured, Storm and Wolverine both going through a lot of self-doubt, Marauders going around killing mutants, Madelyne Pryor, etc., etc. And then, suddenly, three old geezers who have absolutely nothing to do with all that show up! I don't mind one bit if it's to further develop Storm but I just wish you had picked a foe (or foes) that at least had something to do with what's been going on.

I wish you could have at least given us more of Longshot, Dazzler, and Psylocke. (She makes me wish I could read with an English accent.)

To change the subject, I disagree with some of your readers' opinions that the anti-mutant hysteria that's going around is phony and contrived. I mean, if it really happened—a large group of people suddenly developing super powers, and some of them using them for evil—I wouldn't be at all surprised if people went around lynching them. After all, people are constantly making judgments and getting paranoid and hysterical for less reasons. (Like skin color, for example.)

One last thing. A long time ago, Chris, you intimated that something could go on between Wolvie and Snowbird of Alpha Flight. In case she isn't really dead, I hope you would at least consider developing something of it.

By the way, where's Magneto? (I'm in favor of a costume change.)

I just remembered (while I'm at it), I think Rogue's great. I identify with her a lot! I know what it's like not to be able to just touch someone.

Till Wolverine joins the Lakers, Make Mine Marvel!

Arlene Buena
Box 518, 4905 43rd Ave.
Beaumont, Alberta, CANADA

Dear X-Mavens,

I must admit that when I read the synopsis of the plot of X-MEN #215 in MARVEL AGE I thought to myself, "Great, just what we need, three more ersatz super-villains." And the cover confirmed my fears.

What a surprise to open said cover and find . . . Madelyne Pryor! Can it be that there is such a thing as consistency in my favorite—or once favorite—title? That once-major characters have not simply been farmed off to new titles?

Evidently so! For, much to my surprise, X-MEN #215 turns out to be the strongest issue I've read in well over a year! Here's why I think so—

The X-Men were acting like their real selves, not simply grunting out Ramboesque sentiments like "C'mon, make my day!" Ororo was as resourceful as she's ever been. Of all the X-men, her commitment to justice and non-violence (as much as possible) is the most well-formed and articulate. I felt her presence very strongly here. Wolverine was his usual half-cocked, overblown self—but given the provocation of Jean Grey's scent, I suppose he was justified. In fact, his reaction here was the most believable one I've seen to Jean's resurrection. I hated that plot twist, but if I have to live with it (and I do), it's nice to see it being well-handled, in a way I can sympathize with.

The artwork. Too many of the recent issues have looked as though they've been rushed through as the artists hurried to meet deadlines on other magazines. This issue no particular panel blew my socks off but, more importantly, the characters looked the way I feel they should look. Their faces communicated feelings I could understand. I didn't like Alan Davis' cover, but what's inside, like the man says, is what counts.

The pace. Ever since #200 or so, I've felt that everything was being rushed, with a lot of guts and rock-'em-sock-'em, but no steady character stories. (For example, what happened with Kurt and Amanda after #204?) This issue, I felt you slowed down a little and really showed me what Ororo was going through. You even hinted that she might drop Forge a line. Maybe she'll even ditch the Mohawk. (Goddess be praised!)

Well, those are my opinions. This issue was a really nice surprise!

Sascha Leman
441 Clarkson Ave. #503
Brooklyn, NY 11203

This issue sparked off so much commentary from our fans that we decided to show some discretion and discipline for once—we kept our mouths shut! Most of the questions raised have been answered by now in the pages of THE X-MEN. As for Forge, the current storyline will firmly establish his relationship with Ororo—only it's not what anyone's expecting, believe us! (It will result in a change in Storm's appearance, though, Sascha!)

Digitized by
Syl3nt Bob
and
He's a gonna be OKAY!
I think...